BLASTING FROM THE PAGES OF WOLVERINE
MARVEL COMICS
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MAVERICK
IN THE SHADOW OF DEATH
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YOU MAY BE A FIRST CLASS DOUBLE AGENT, JANICE--
--BUT RIGHT NOW, YER A LIABILITY!
CREED!
YOU PSYCHOTIC SON-OF-A--
THOP THOP THOP
SHE WAS A WEAK LINK, LOGAN--!
--OUR MISSION WAS TO SNAG THE CARBONADIUM SYNTHESIZER AND SHE WAS COMPROMISING IT!

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GIVE IT BACK!

RETURN THE CARBONADIUM SYNTHESIZER TO ME AND I MAY LET YOU LIVE!

THEY ACTIVATED THE SUPER SOLDIER!

WHY DON'T YOU MOSEY ON OVER TO HIM AND FLIP HIS "OFF" SWITCH, NORTH!

BY ALL MEANS! COME CLOSER AND FEEL THE LETHAL STING OF OMEGA RED'S MUTANT DEATH FACTOR!

PNG!

PNG!

LET'S SEE HOW THAT DEATH FACTOR WORKS ON THERMITE GRENADES!

BONK!

BONK!

CREED! YOU JUST BOUGHT US ALL A WORM FARM AT ARLINGTON --!

OMEGA RED HAS GOT US CORNERED UP HERE AND THE ONLY WAY OUT IS TEN FLOORS STRAIGHT DOWN TO THE STREET!

THEN WE HAD BEST DEFENESTRATE, COP A BRODIE, TAKE THE WALL STREET PLUNGE--

--EITHER WAY, WE AIN'T GONNA BE HERE FOR THE FINALE!

LEAVE THE DAME, NORTH!

WE DON'T STAND A CHANCE OF SURVIVING THE BLAST IN THESE CLOSE QUARTERS!

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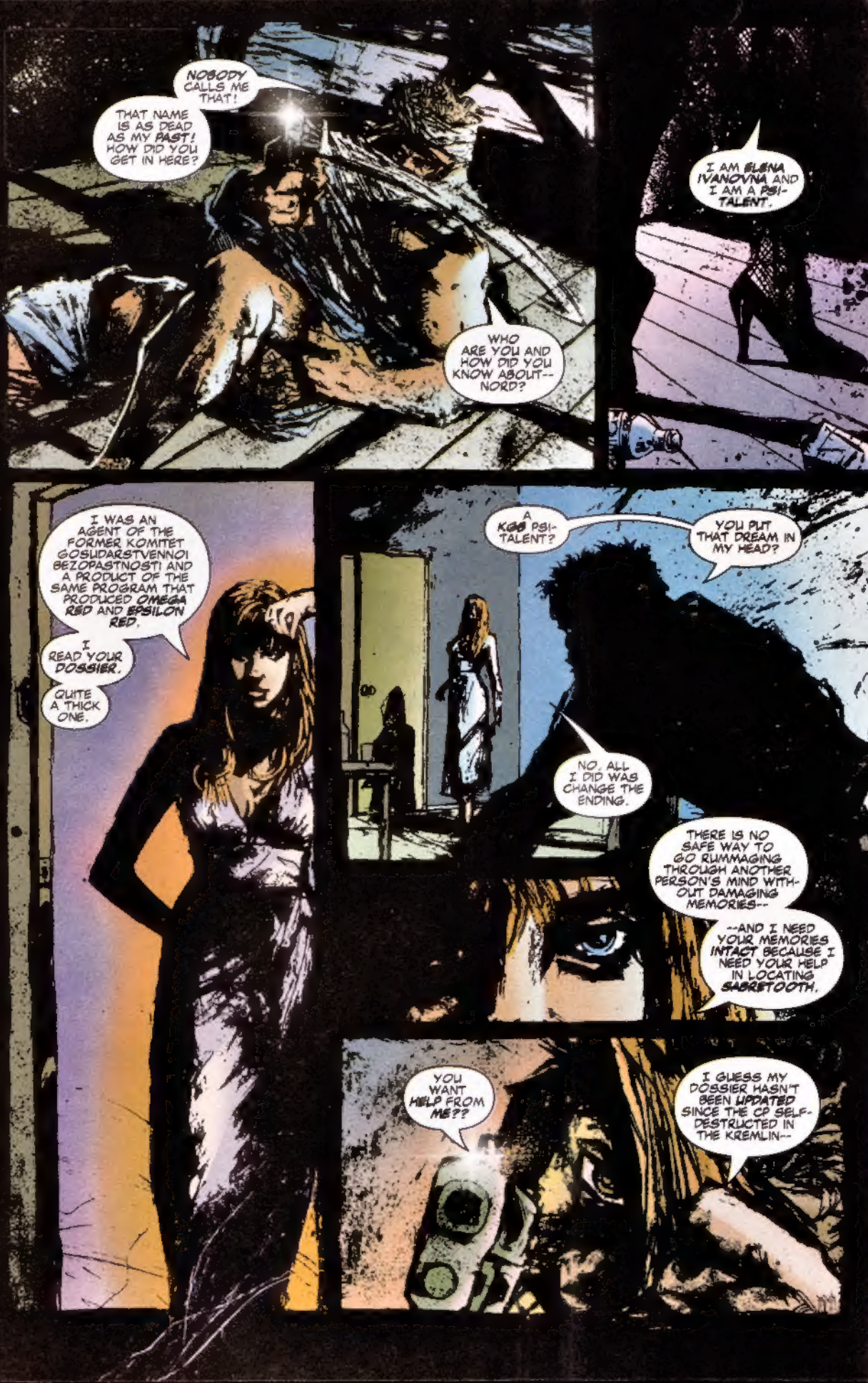
STAN LEE PRESENTS

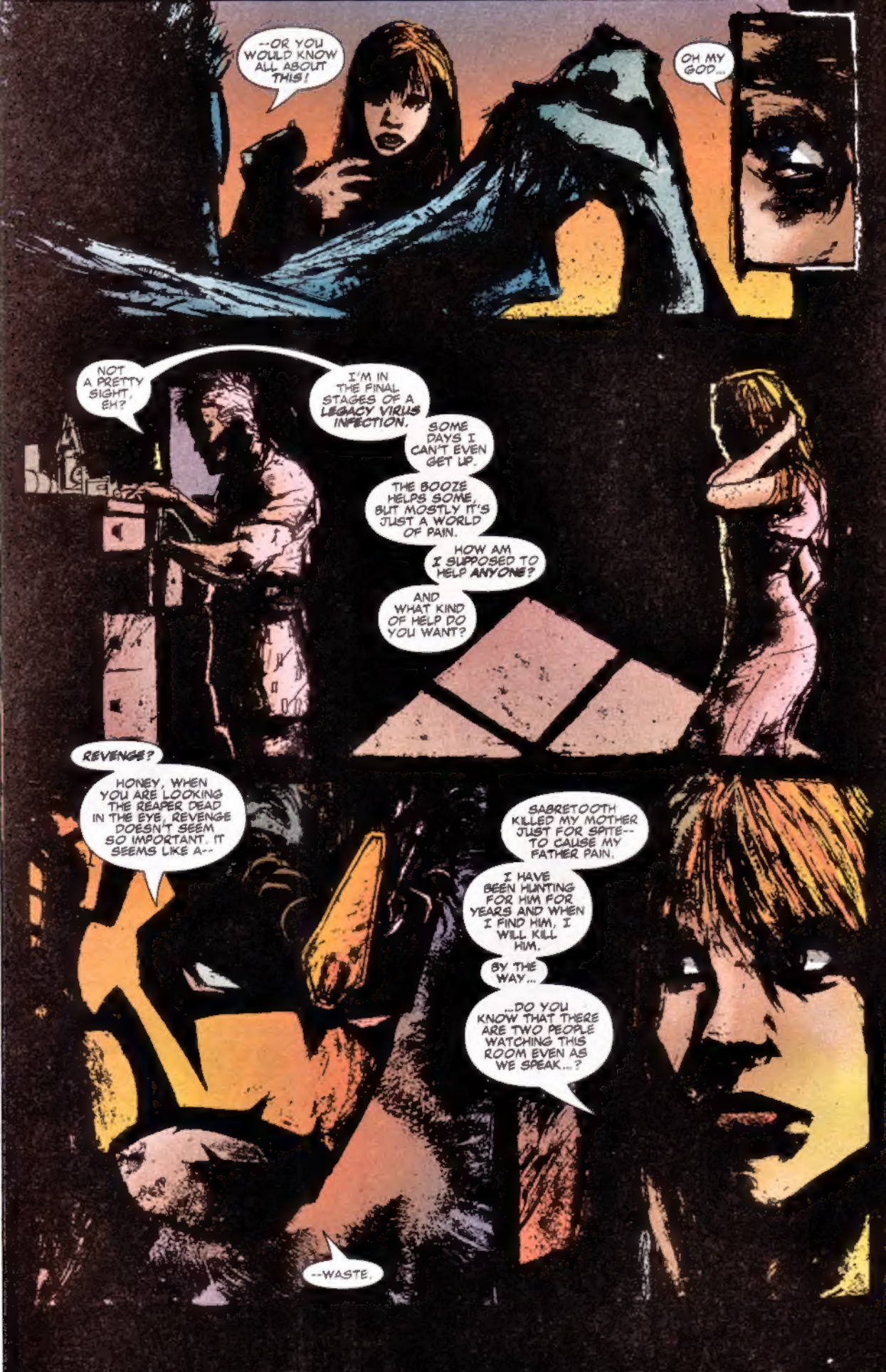
THE SWORD SUNG ON BARREN HEATH

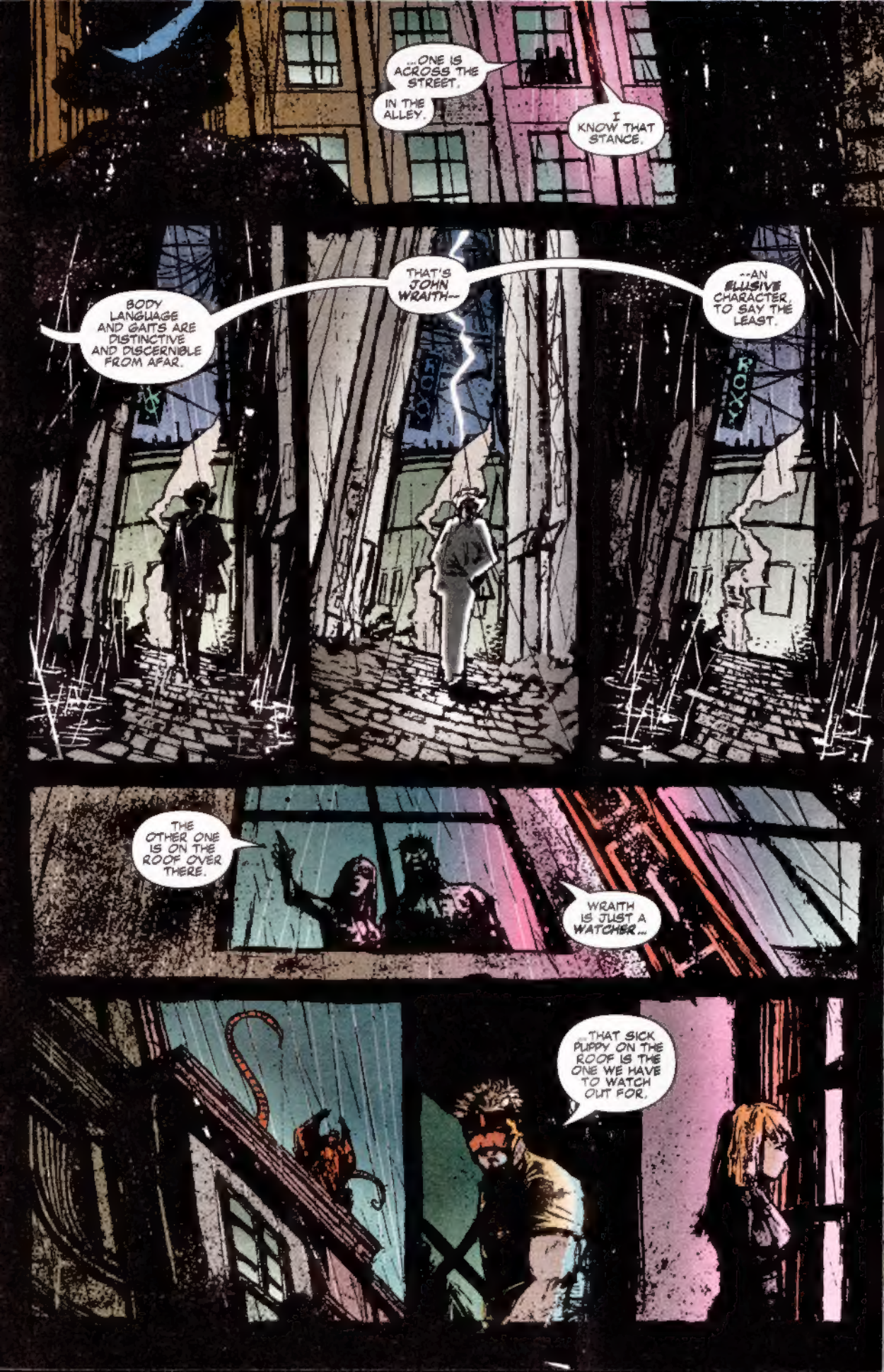
KRAKKK-BOOM!
NO WAY, CREED-- SHE'S EVIDENCE!
SUIT YOURSELF!
GO LIMP-- THE BATTLE ARMOR'LL ABSORB THE IMPACT.
AND IF IT DOESN'T?
WHAT, YOU WANNA LIVE FOREVER?
FUNNY YOU SHOULD SAY THAT, CREED!
HA! AIN'T YOU A PISTOL, NORTH! MAYBE YOU'RE THINKIN' THAT OMEGA RED AIN'T THE ONLY MUTANT IN SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY?
THWUPP!
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN, CREED--?
--WHU??

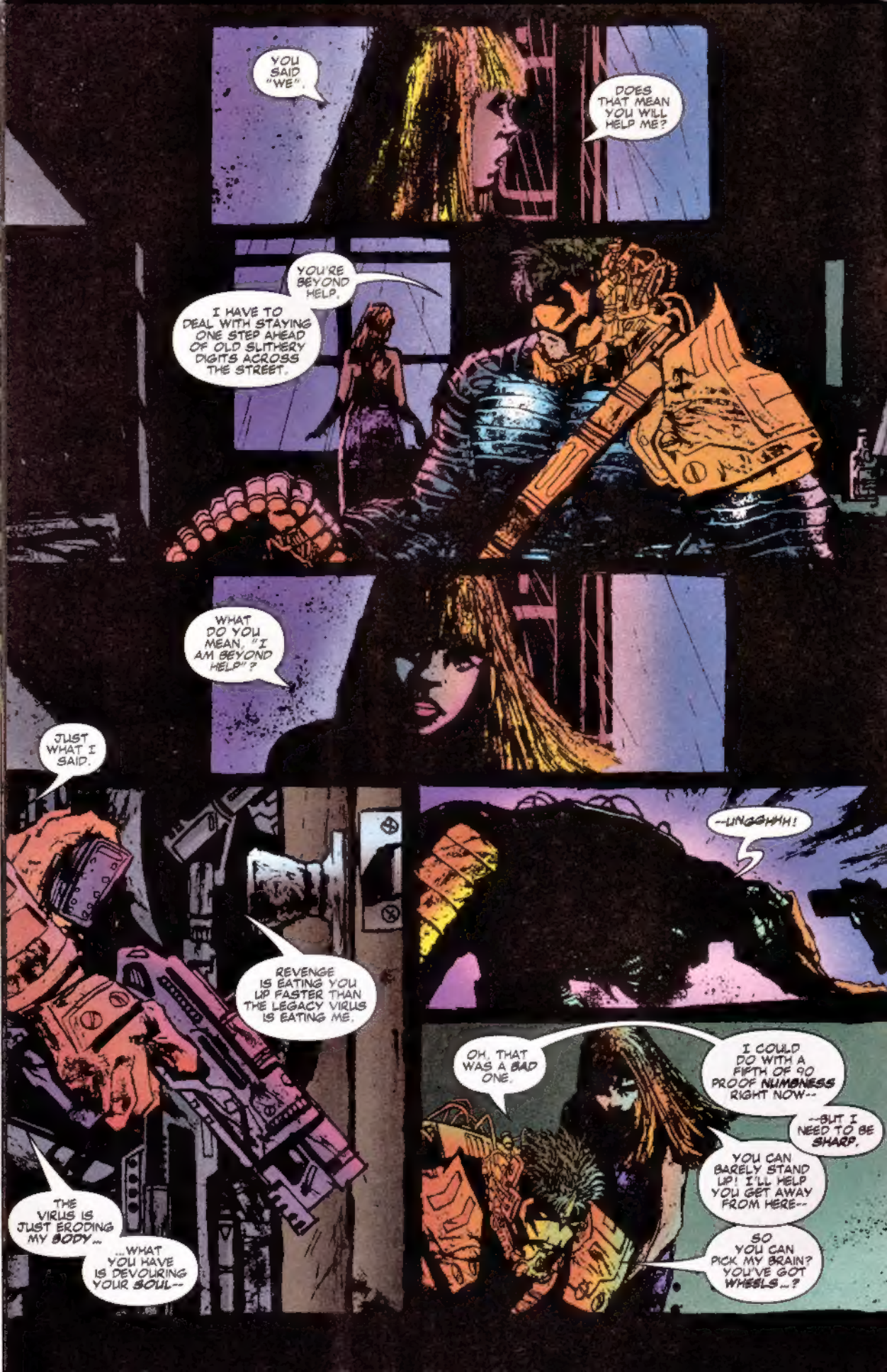
DID YOU REALLY THINK THAT MERE THERMITE WOULD HAVE ANY EFFECT ON A SUPER SOLDIER?
DON'T YOU WISH YOU WERE JUST AS IMPERVIOUS TO MY MUTANT DEATH FACTOR SEEPING OUT OF MY TENTACLES?
EEEEEYAAAA!
HOW IMPERVIOUS ARE YOU TO HOT PLASMA AND STEEL-JACKETED LEAD?
THOP THOP THOP
BLAMM BLAMM BLAMM!
TZING!
BWEE!
VIP!
VIP!
VIP!
CARBONADIUM IS ALMOST AS INDESTRUCTIBLE AS ADAMANTIUM!
DO YOU FEEL THE COLD DARKNESS OOZING INTO YOUR BODY, PERMEATING YOUR CELLS--?
--IT WILL LURK THERE FOREVERMORE, AND IT IS
DEATH!!
NOOOOO!!
IT DIDN'T HAPPEN THIS WAY--!!

--IT DIDN'T HAPPEN THIS WAY AT ALL!!
UHHH...
GET A GRIP, OLD BOY.
JUST A DREAM.
YOU'RE STILL IN OTTAWA, NORTH.
ALL THAT STUFF HAPPENED YEARS AGO IN BERLIN, BEFORE I BECAME MAVERICK.
BEFORE LOGAN BECAME WOLVERINE.
BEFORE CREED BECAME SABRETOOTH.
THOSE WERE SOME TIMES.
WE WERE SOME TEAM.
DOMINATE PIZZA
HERE I GO AGAIN DWELLING IN THE PAST.
I SUPPOSE IT'S ONLY NATURAL, THOUGH...
...WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE A FUTURE.
HERR NORD?


NOBODY CALLS ME THAT!
THAT NAME IS AS DEAD AS MY PAST! HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?
WHO ARE YOU AND HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT-- NORD?
I AM ELENA IVANOVNA AND I AM A PSI-TALENT.
I WAS AN AGENT OF THE FORMER KOMITET GOSUDARSTVENNOI BEZOPASTNOSTI AND A PRODUCT OF THE SAME PROGRAM THAT PRODUCED OMEGA RED AND EPSILON RED.
I READ YOUR DOSSIER.
QUITE A THICK ONE.
A KGB PSI-TALENT?
YOU PUT THAT DREAM IN MY HEAD?
NO. ALL I DID WAS CHANGE THE ENDING.
THERE IS NO SAFE WAY TO GO RUMMAGING THROUGH ANOTHER PERSON'S MIND WITHOUT DAMAGING MEMORIES--
--AND I NEED YOUR MEMORIES INTACT BECAUSE I NEED YOUR HELP IN LOCATING SABRETOOTH.
YOU WANT HELP FROM ME??
I GUESS MY DOSSIER HASN'T BEEN UPDATED SINCE THE CP SELF-DESTRUCTED IN THE KREMLIN--


--OR YOU WOULD KNOW ALL ABOUT THIS!
OH MY GOD...
NOT A PRETTY SIGHT, EH?
I'M IN THE FINAL STAGES OF A LEGACY VIRUS INFECTION.
SOME DAYS I CAN'T EVEN GET UP.
THE BOOZE HELPS SOME, BUT MOSTLY IT'S JUST A WORLD OF PAIN.
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO HELP ANYONE?
AND WHAT KIND OF HELP DO YOU WANT?
REVENGE?
HONEY, WHEN YOU ARE LOOKING THE REAPER DEAD IN THE EYE, REVENGE DOESN'T SEEM SO IMPORTANT. IT SEEMS LIKE A--
SABRETOOTH KILLED MY MOTHER JUST FOR SPITE--TO CAUSE MY FATHER PAIN.
I HAVE BEEN HUNTING FOR HIM FOR YEARS AND WHEN I FIND HIM, I WILL KILL HIM.
BY THE WAY...
...DO YOU KNOW THAT THERE ARE TWO PEOPLE WATCHING THIS ROOM EVEN AS WE SPEAK...?
--WASTE.


...ONE IS ACROSS THE STREET.
IN THE ALLEY.
I KNOW THAT STANCE.
BODY LANGUAGE AND GAITS ARE DISTINCTIVE AND DISCERNIBLE FROM AFAR.
THAT'S JOHN WRAITH--
--AN ELUSIVE CHARACTER, TO SAY THE LEAST.
THE OTHER ONE IS ON THE ROOF OVER THERE.
WRAITH IS JUST A WATCHER...
...THAT SICK PUPPY ON THE ROOF IS THE ONE WE HAVE TO WATCH OUT FOR.


YOU SAID "WE".
DOES THAT MEAN YOU WILL HELP ME?
YOU'RE BEYOND HELP.
I HAVE TO DEAL WITH STAYING ONE STEP AHEAD OF OLD SLITHERY DIGITS ACROSS THE STREET.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "I AM BEYOND HELP"?
JUST WHAT I SAID.
REVENGE IS EATING YOU UP FASTER THAN THE LEGACY VIRUS IS EATING ME.
THE VIRUS IS JUST ERODING MY BODY...
...WHAT YOU HAVE IS DEVOURING YOUR SOUL--
--UNGGHHH!
OH, THAT WAS A BAD ONE.
I COULD DO WITH A FIFTH OF 90 PROOF NUMBNESS RIGHT NOW--
--BUT I NEED TO BE SHARP.
YOU CAN BARELY STAND UP! I'LL HELP YOU GET AWAY FROM HERE--
SO YOU CAN PICK MY BRAIN? YOU'VE GOT WHEELS...?

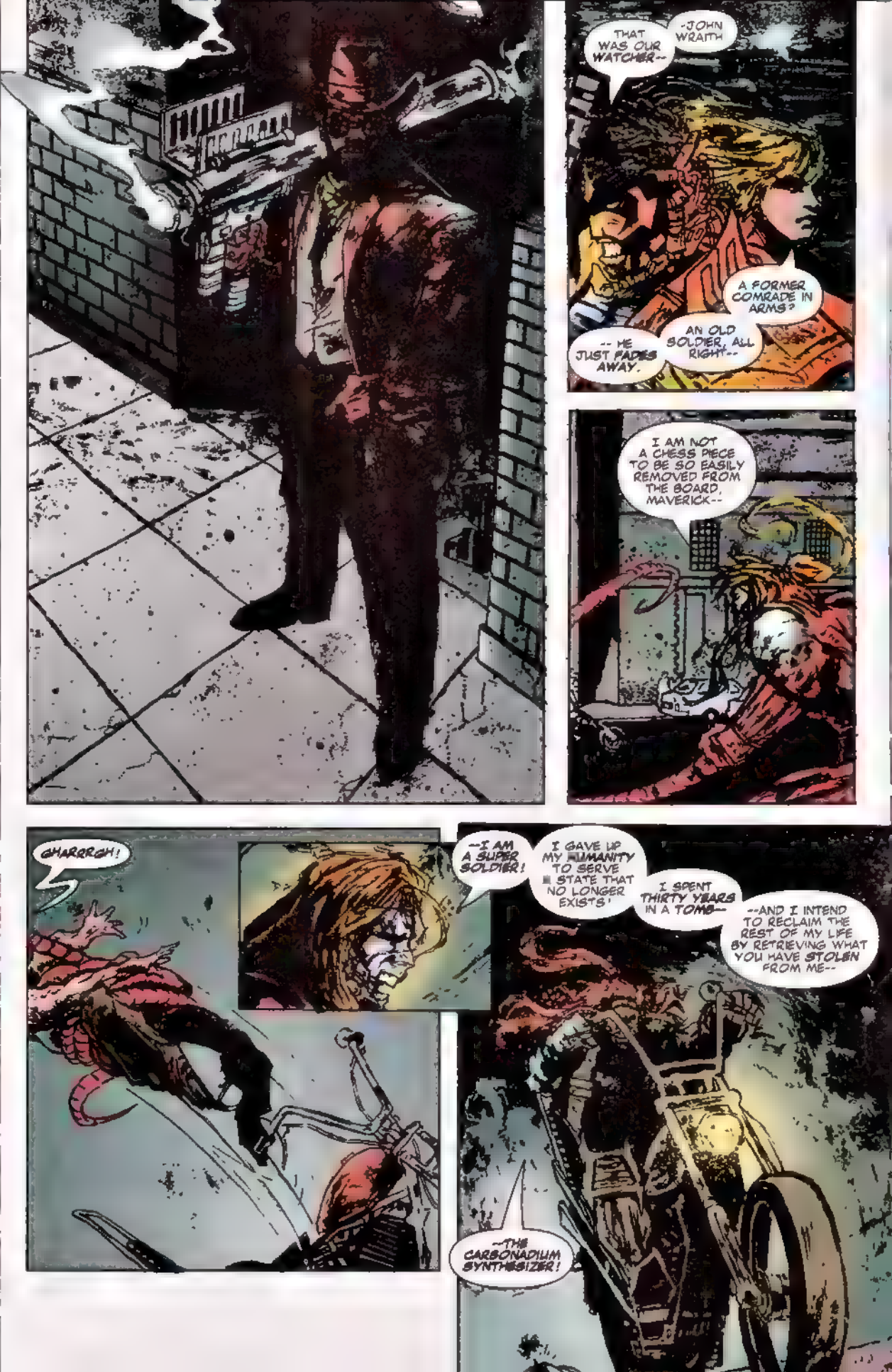
I'LL SAY YOU HAVE WHEELS!
SOMEHOW I WAS EXPECTING EITHER A MOSKVITCH OR A CHAIKA!
IF I'M GOING TO BE CONSPICUOUS, I MIGHT AS WELL BE FAST!
A VIPER IS FAST NYET?
DA. A VIPER IS FAST--

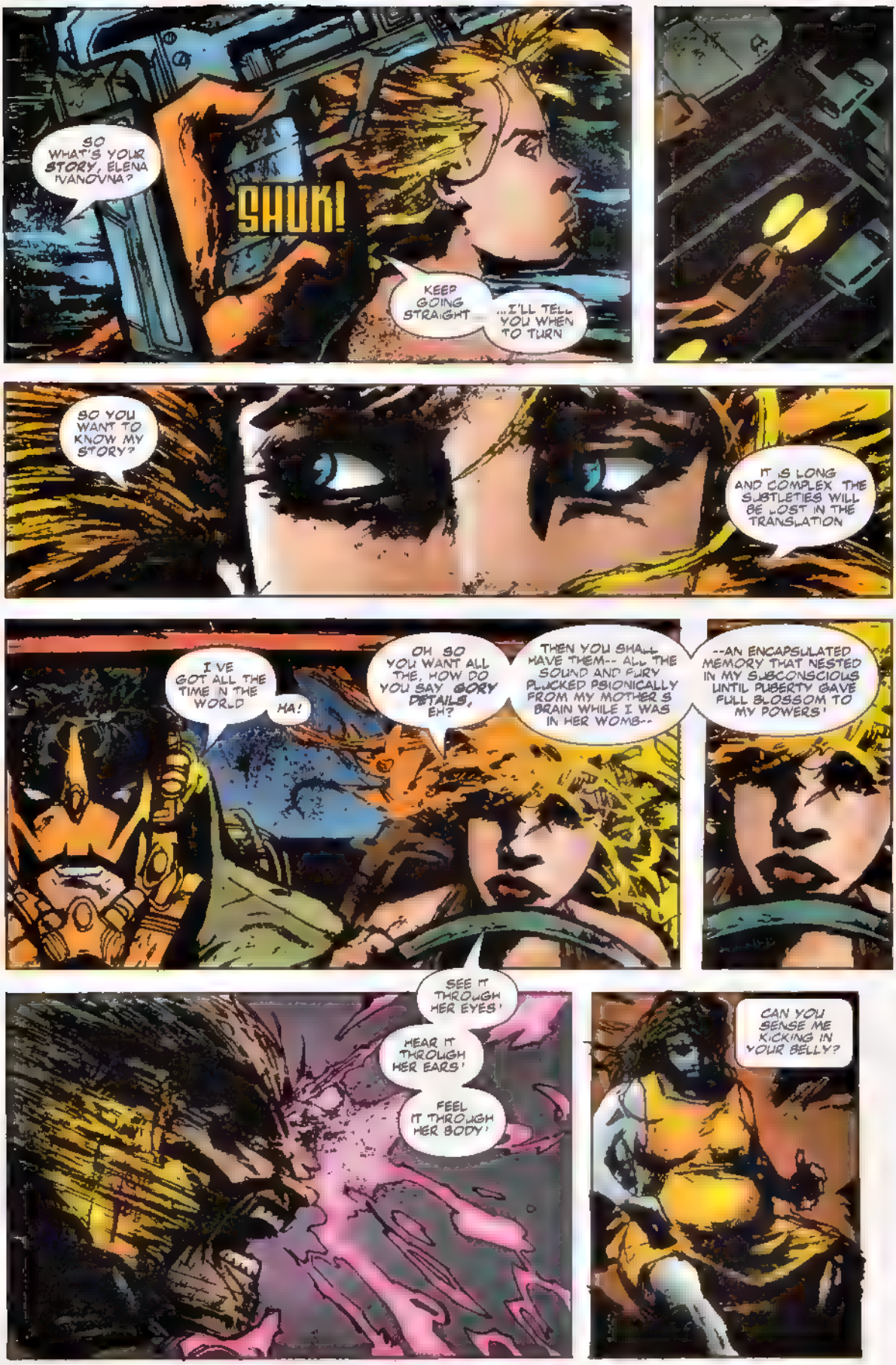
--BUT WHETHER IT'S FAST ENOUGH TO ELUDE OMEGA RED IS YET TO BE SEEN!

MOLY-STEEL-JACKETED DEPLETED URANIUM 10 MIKE-ULTRA-VELOCITY ARMOR-PIERCING MIGHT SLOW HIM DOWN A BIT--
BRRRRRRAAAPP!

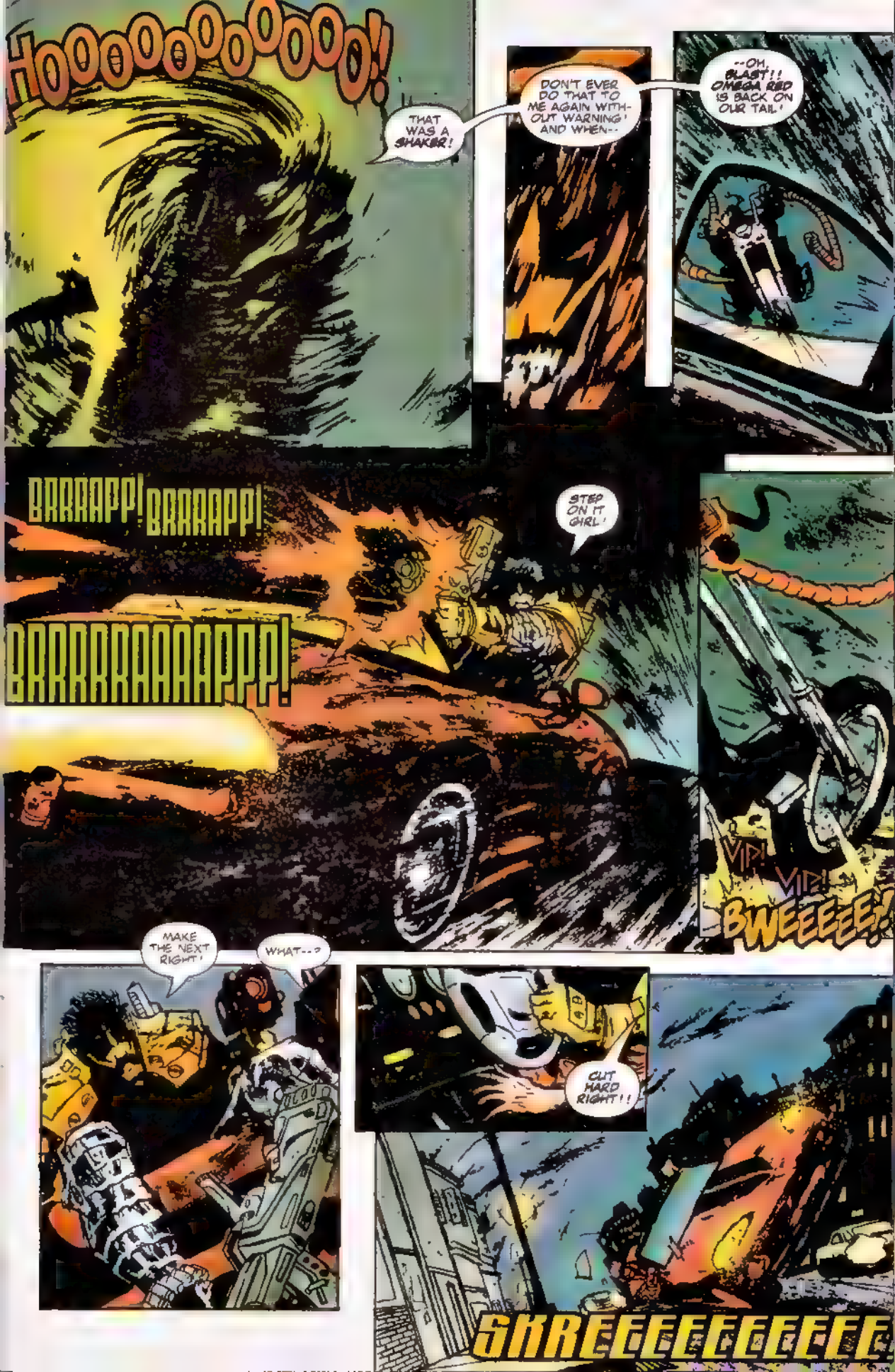
--BUT THEY SURE AREN'T DEFLECTING HIM FROM HIS INTERSECTION COURSE!
OUR GETAWAY MAY BE ABBREVIATED--

PA-THOOM!
WHAT WAS THAT? SOMETHING JUST BLEW HIM OUT OF OUR PATH!


THAT WAS OUR WATCHER--
-JOHN WRAITH
A FORMER COMRADE IN ARMS?
AN OLD SOLDIER, ALL RIGHT--
-- HE JUST FADES AWAY.
I AM NOT A CHESS PIECE TO BE SO EASILY REMOVED FROM THE BOARD, MAVERICK--
GHARRRGH!
--I AM A SUPER SOLDIER!
I GAVE UP MY HUMANITY TO SERVE A STATE THAT NO LONGER EXISTS!
I SPENT THIRTY YEARS IN A TOMB--
--AND I INTEND TO RECLAIM THE REST OF MY LIFE BY RETRIEVING WHAT YOU HAVE STOLEN FROM ME--
--THE CARBONADIUM SYNTHESIZER!


SO WHAT'S YOUR STORY, ELENA IVANOVNA?
SHUK!
KEEP GOING STRAIGHT
...I'LL TELL YOU WHEN TO TURN
SO YOU WANT TO KNOW MY STORY?
IT IS LONG AND COMPLEX THE SUBTLETIES WILL BE LOST IN THE TRANSLATION
I'VE GOT ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD
HA!
OH, SO YOU WANT ALL THE, HOW DO YOU SAY GORY DETAILS, EH?
THEN YOU SHALL HAVE THEM-- ALL THE SOUND AND FURY PLUCKED PSIONICALLY FROM MY MOTHER'S BRAIN WHILE I WAS IN HER WOMB--
--AN ENCAPSULATED MEMORY THAT NESTED IN MY SUBCONSCIOUS UNTIL PUBERTY GAVE FULL BLOSSOM TO MY POWERS!
SEE IT THROUGH HER EYES!
HEAR IT THROUGH HER EARS!
FEEL IT THROUGH HER BODY!
CAN YOU SENSE ME KICKING IN YOUR BELLY?

DO YOU SEE HIM?
HE IS LOGAN AND HE HAS COME TO KILL YOUR HUSBAND EPSILON RED!
IT IS 1968 AND THE SOVIETS ARE IN A DESPERATE RACE TO BEAT THE AMERICANS TO THE MOON!
EPSILON RED IS THE SUPER-ASTRONAUT SURGICALLY ALTERED TO ENDURE THE RIGORS OF SPACE
YOU SEE THAT LOGAN HESITATES TO KILL
YOU PLEAD FOR THE LIFE OF YOUR BABY'S FATHER
EVEN AS YOUR HUSBAND ASKS THE ASSASSIN TO CARRY OUT HIS MISSION AND END HIS TWILIGHT EXISTENCE--
--FOR HE HAD FORSAKEN A PART OF HIS HUMANITY IN ORDER TO BE AT HOME AMONG THE STARS.
YOU RECOIL IN SHOCK AS ANOTHER AMERICAN ASSASSIN ARRIVES
LOGAN CALLS HIM SABRETOOTH BUT HE WAS KNOWN AS CREED THEN
CREED RESCINDS LOGAN'S ORDERS THE "HIT" HAS BEEN ABORTED
YOU BREATHE A SIGH OF RELIEF AS LOGAN DEPARTS
BUT YOU WONDER WHY CREED LINGERS
YOUR HUSBAND PLEADS WITH CREED TO PUT AN END TO HIS MISERY--
AND CREED LAUGHS
BLAMMMMMMMM!


HOOOOOOOOOOO!
THAT WAS A SHAKER!
DON'T EVER DO THAT TO ME AGAIN WITHOUT WARNING! AND WHEN--
--OH, BLAST!! OMEGA RED IS BACK ON OUR TAIL!
BRRRAPP! BRRRAPP!
BRRRRRAAAAAPPP!
STEP ON IT GIRL!
VIP! VIP!
BWEEEEE!
MAKE THE NEXT RIGHT!
WHAT--?
CUT HARD RIGHT!!
SKREEEEEEEEEE!

I WAS DELIVERED BY C-SECTION JUST AS MY MOTHER DIED ON THE OPERATING TABLE

I WAS BORN WITH THE PSI-MEMORY OF MY OWN MOTHER'S DEATH IMPRINTED ON MY BRAIN!

I'VE HAD MANY SETBACKS ON MY SEARCH FOR MY MOTHER'S MURDERER BUT I INTEND TO MAKE YOU LEAD ME TO HIM IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO!

IT MAY WELL BE GIRL.

BUT-- BUT--THERE IS A BARRICADE!! IT IS A SECURITY AREA!!

THERE IT IS! GO THROUGH THE GATE!

NEXT EXIT ½ KM

VRRROOOOM!

THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT, BABE!

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE SPECIAL WEAPONS RESEARCH FACILITY

NO ENTRY

RATATATAT!

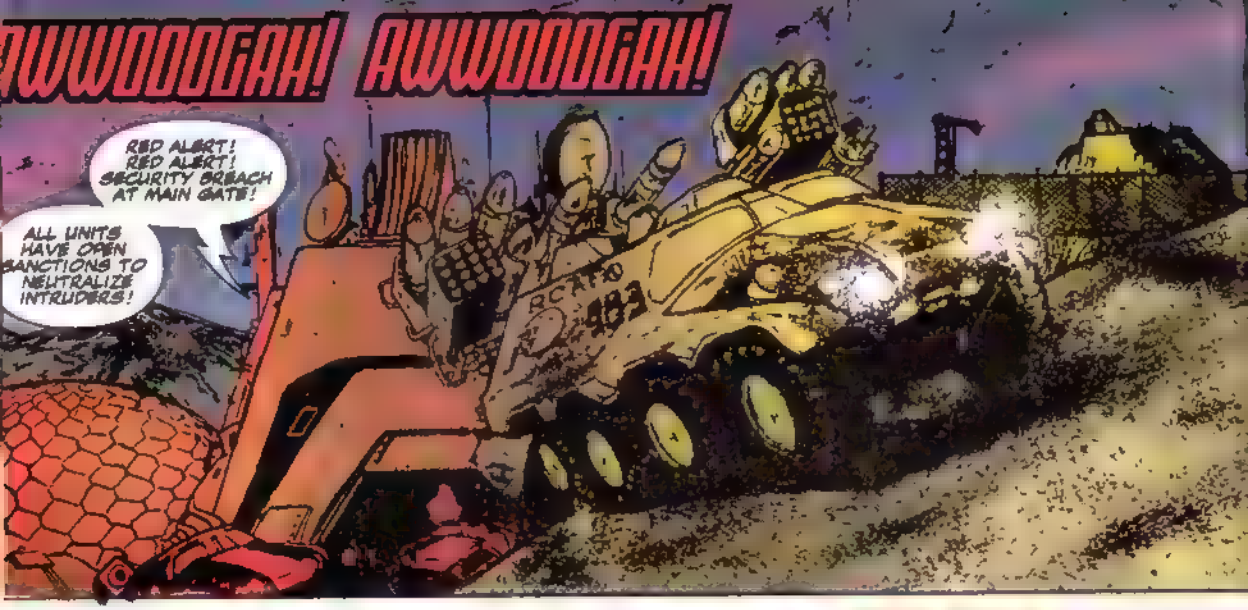
BRRAPP!

HALT!!! THIS IS A RESTRICTED BASE!!

VROOOOM

BASE SECURITY! WE HAVE HOSTILE INTRUDERS INGRESSING FROM THE MAIN GATE!

THERE GOES ANOTHER ONE!


AWWOOOGAH! AWWOOOGAH!
RED ALERT! RED ALERT! SECURITY BREACH AT MAIN GATE!
ALL UNITS HAVE OPEN SANCTIONS TO NEUTRALIZE INTRUDERS!

IT WAS A BRILLIANT PLOY TO LURE OMEGA RED INTO A CANADIAN AIR FORCE SECURITY AREA TO DRAW SUPPRESSIVE FIRE ON HIM--

--BUT WHAT IS TO PROTECT US FROM THE FIRESTORM OF OVERKILL WEAPONRY?

I'M THE TAC-TICIAN--
--YOU ARE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE THE SKILL AND FINESSE TO MANEUVER OUT OF HARM'S WAY!

FOOM!
FOOM!
FOOM!
FOOM!

KA-POOOM!

LADY LUCK IS SMILING ON US TODAY--
--OMEGA RED JUST GOT PASTED WITH A BRACE OF ROCKETS!
HOW DO WE GET OUT OF HERE?
YOU'RE ASKING ME?
DEAD END!
BACK IT UP GIRL
696-8
TOO LATE! THE WAY OUT IS BLOCKED!
STOP YOUR VEHICLE AND COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP!
SECURITY AREA
DO YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF THIS FLY JOINT OR ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO DYING IN PLACE?

WRAITH-MAN!
HOW DID YOU--?
GOT MY MOJO WORKING
HEY YOU KNOW WE DON'T DIVULGE TRADE SECRETS!
ELENA THIS IS MY OLD TEAMMATE JOHN WRAITH--
NO TIME FOR INTROS NORTH YOU AND THE LADY GOTTA BOOK OUT!
FOLLOW THE STAIRS DOWN AND THEN FOLLOW THE NUMBERS AS THEY DECREASE AND THAT WILL GET YOU INTO THE TUNNEL THAT BRINGS YOU OUT IN THE WOODS.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
GOTTA FINISH MY ACT.
DON'T SHOOT!
IT'S JUST LITTLE OL ME AND I AM LIKE TOTALLY UNARMED!

THAT WAS THE WATCHER--
--THE ONE WHO WAS IN THE ALLEY ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE PROPHECY!
MR FAST FADE, HIMSELF--
--HE WAS THE EXTRACTION SPECIALIST
EXTRACTION?
THE TEAM COULD BE NECK DEEP IN A CLASS "A" FURBALL WITH NO WAY OUT OTHER THAN THE BODYBAG EXPRESS--
--AND UP POPS THE WRAITH-MAN, LIGHTING UP THE EXIT SIGNS AND HANDING OUT "GET OUT OF JAIL FREE" CARDS!
ONE TIME IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WE WERE TRAPPED IN A MISSILE SILO AND HE "FADED" HIMSELF INTO A HOSTILE HELICOPTER AND--
KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED BOYS--WE HAVE A "SHOOT ON SIGHT" FIRING ORDER!
NO PLACE TO HIDE!
I'LL HANDLE IT--
"HEY WALKED RIGHT PAST! DID YOU--?
YES-- I WENT INSIDE THEIR BRAINS AND BLOCKED OUR IMAGES!
I'M SORRY THE PSI-POWER IS HOW DO YOU SAY--VERY DRAINING
I WAS STILL WEAK FROM THE DISPLAY I GAVE YOU IN THE CAR...
...AND NOW, I AM--YOU MIGHT HAVE TO CARRY ME

IN THE BASE MOTOR POOL...
HE'S TRUSSED UP WITH TOW CHAINS FROM A QUAD TRACTOR-- HE'S NOT GOING ANYWHERE!
HE TOOK A DIRECT HIT FROM AN ANTI-TANK ROCKET AND HE'S STILL BREATHING--!
--I SAY WE HAUL HIM OUT OF THE LUBE PIT AND DROP HIM IN THE ACID BATH!
NOW THAT'S THE MOST SLAVIC SPANISH ACCENT I'VE EVER HEARD--
WE DON'T DO THAT.
WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS, REMEMBER?
NOW WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
NO COMPRENDE INGLES'
COLONEL--!
--THIS FREAK IS IN THE INTEL DATA BANK!
HE'S A FORMER SOVIET AGENT!
COLONEL, THE TWO IN THE VIPER GOT AWAY, BUT WE GOT THEIR ACCOMPLICE!
OMEGA RED--!

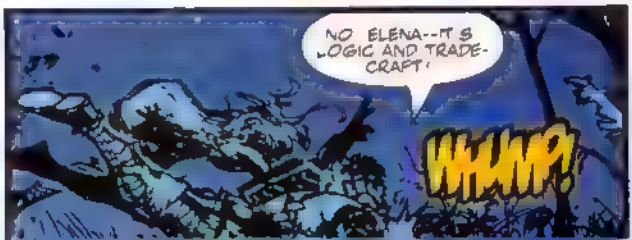
--CHANCES AREN'T GOING TO CONTAIN A SUPER SOLDIER!
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO RINGING IN THE MILLENNIUM, YOU HAD BEST TAKE THAT BAD BOY OUT IN THE ALLEY AND DROP A LOW-YIELD NUKE ON HIS HEAD!
I'M AN AMERICAN AGENT! THERE'S AN I.D. AND A PHONE NUMBER IN MY POCKET--ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS--
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! THAT MOPE IS GOING TO WIPE THE FLOOR WITH YOUR FACES!!
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SHUT UP!
WHAPP!
NOBODY TELLS ME TO KILL A PRISONER!
I TOLD YOU TO SHUT UP!
SERGEANT RUN THIS MAN THROUGH THE INTEL DATA [redacted]!
WHUMP!
YESSIR!
I AM TRYING TO SAVE YOUR LIVES!
I TOLD YOU--

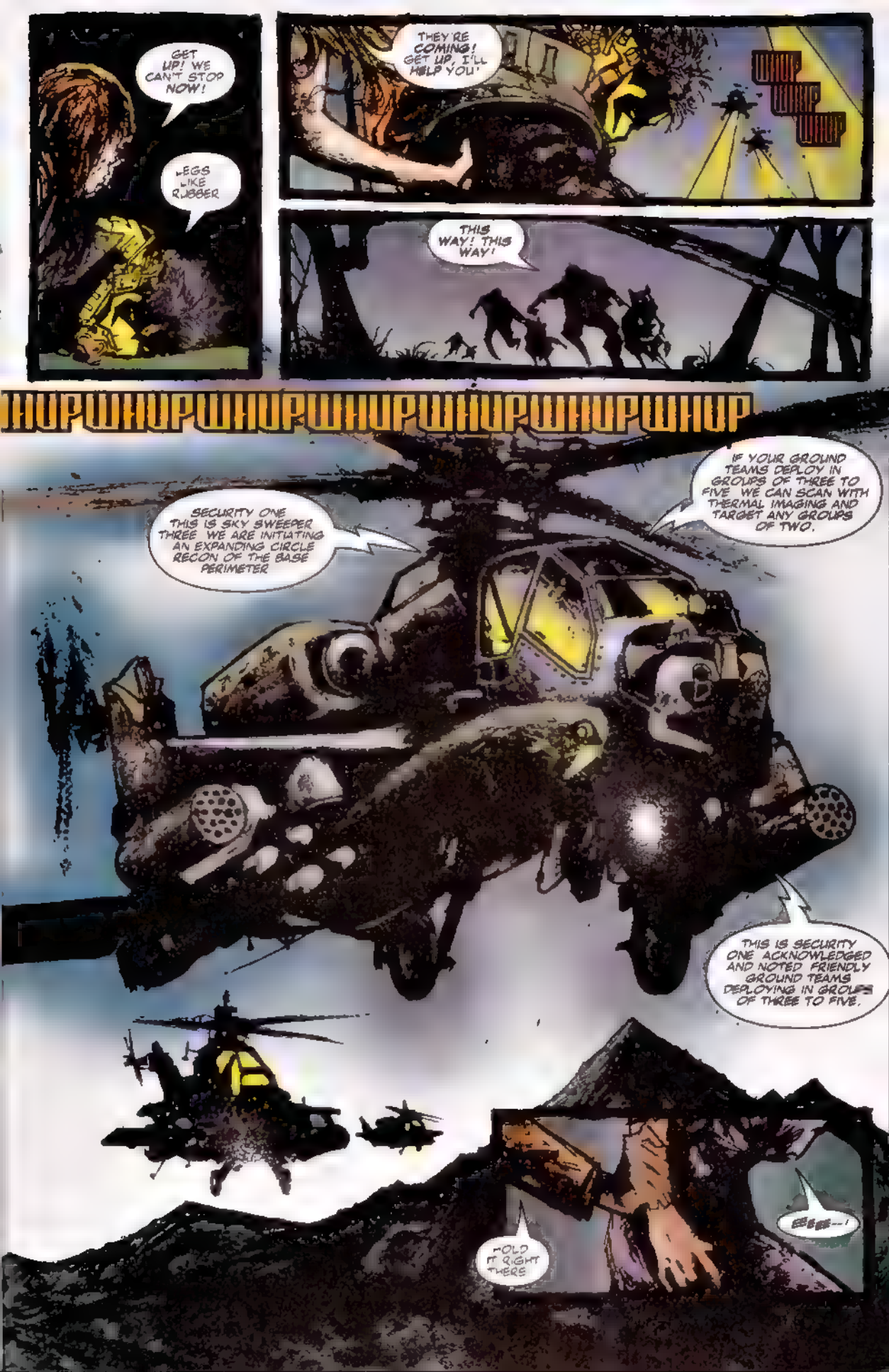
THERE JUST AIN'T NO HELPING CERTAIN PEOPLE IS THERE?
WELL, XIN-LOI TO YOU, PARD--
--I'M GOING TO HAT UP AND DI DI, IF YOU CATCH MY DRIFT!
HE JUST FADED AWAY!
I'M NOT BLIND, CORPORAL!
HA! MR JOHN WRAITH IS UP TO HIS OLD TRICKS AGAIN!
HE HAS SLIPPED THROUGH MY TENTACLES ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION!
I ASSURE YOU THAT YOU ARE NOT GOING TO SLIP THROUGH MY FINGERS
AU CONTRAIRE MON COLONEL!
THE QUARRY YOU ARE DETAINING ME FROM RUNNING DOWN KNOWS THE LOCATION OF A PURLOINED DEVICE KNOWN AS A CARBONADIUM SYNTHESIZER...
A DEVICE THAT IS ESSENTIAL TO MY CONTINUED EXISTENCE!
SO YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THAT--

--I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO DETAIN ME ANY FURTHER!
SKRANG!
OPEN FIRE!!
TOO LATE, COLONEL...!
--ALL THERE IS LEFT FOR YOU TO DO IS DIE!

THIS IS THE END OF THE VENT SYSTEM--I HOPE WE'RE OUTSIDE THE PERIMETER!
SECURITY AREA KEEP OUT
FWAP!
WE'VE GOT A CHANCE!
TOO WEAK TO CARRY YOU ANY FURTHER ELENA--CAN YOU WALK?
WE'RE OUTSIDE THE WIRE!
WITH A LITTLE HELP!

WHY DID YOU HAVE TO COME ALONG AND DRAG ME INTO THIS?
WHY COULDN'T YOU HAVE LEFT ME ALONE TO DIE IN PEACE?
OH, LORD--I'M HURTING REAL BAD--
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? ARKADY--OMEGA RED WAS ALREADY ON YOUR TRAIL--!
NO WAY! YOU WERE THE LINK! HE TRACKED YOU THROUGH YOUR OLD KGB CONTACTS!
HE USED YOU TO FIND ME AND WHEN YOU HAD THE LOCATION NARROWED TO OTTOWA, HE FOUND THE CONNECTION TO THE PROJECT AND BEAT YOU TO IT!
"YOU CAN'T KNOW THAT"--THAT IS WILD EXTRAPOLATION!

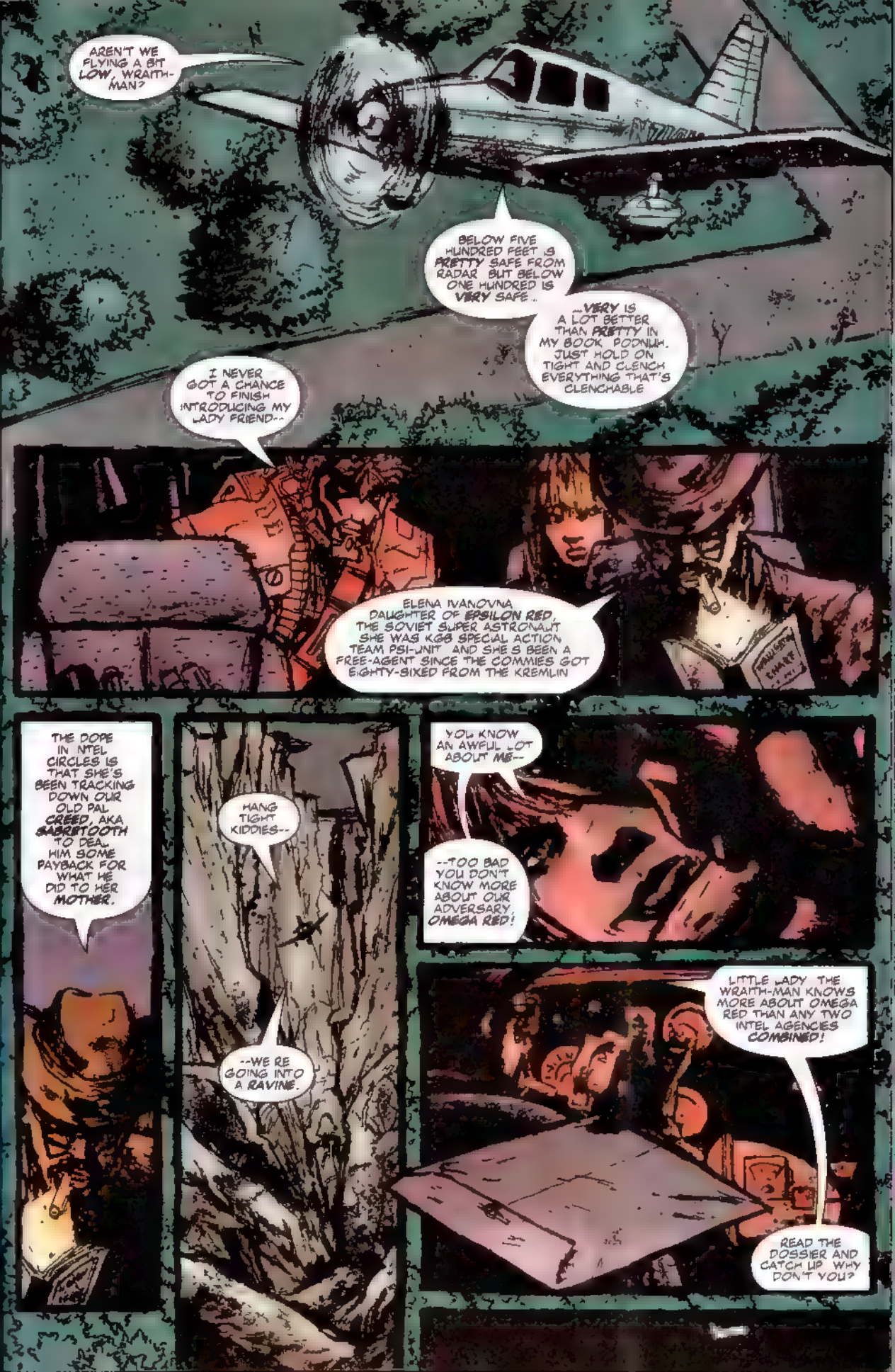

NO, ELENA--IT'S LOGIC AND TRADECRAFT!
WHUMP!

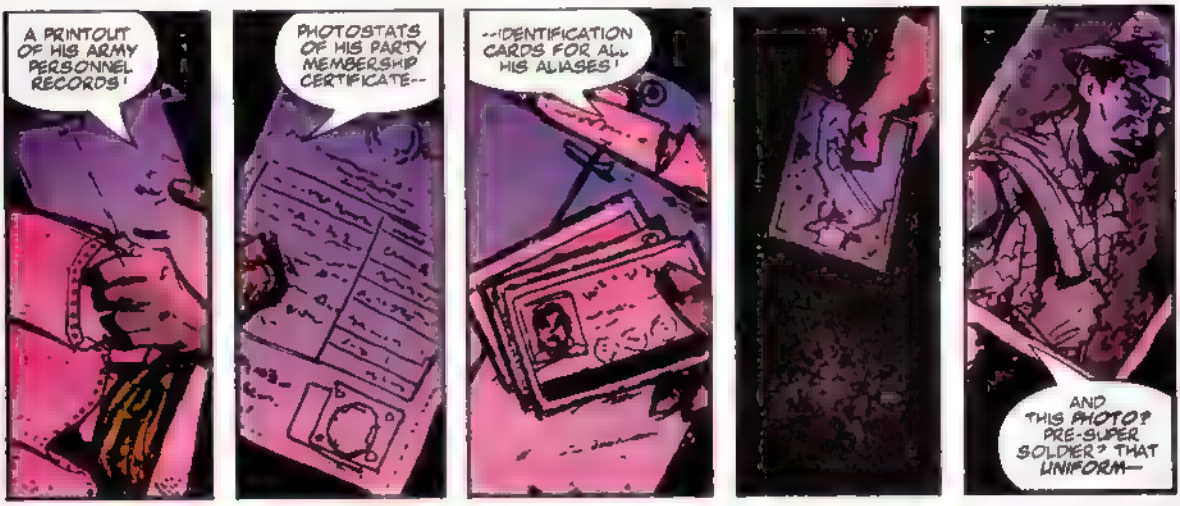

GET UP! WE CAN'T STOP NOW!
LEGS LIKE RUBBER
THEY'RE COMING! GET UP, I'LL HELP YOU!
WHUP WHUP WHUP
THIS WAY! THIS WAY!
WHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUP
SECURITY ONE THIS IS SKY SWEEPER THREE WE ARE INITIATING AN EXPANDING CIRCLE RECON OF THE BASE PERIMETER
IF YOUR GROUND TEAMS DEPLOY IN GROUPS OF THREE TO FIVE WE CAN SCAN WITH THERMAL IMAGING AND TARGET ANY GROUPS OF TWO.
THIS IS SECURITY ONE ACKNOWLEDGED AND NOTED FRIENDLY GROUND TEAMS DEPLOYING IN GROUPS OF THREE TO FIVE.
EEE--!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE

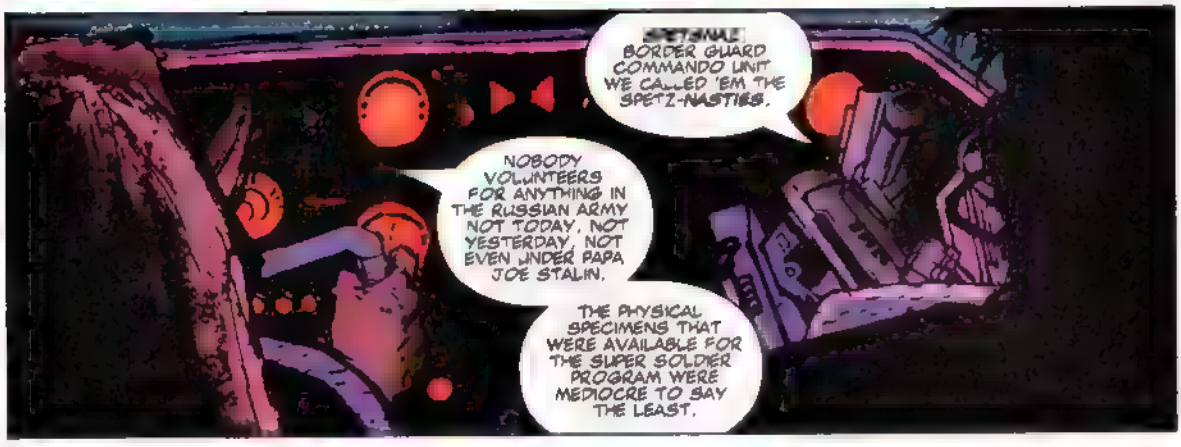
JOHN WRAITH! HOW DID YOU--?
SHHHH!
IS WORTH HIM?
NO IT'S THE LEGACY VIRUS--
THEN HE WON'T BLEED OUT IF I CARRY HIM CROSS COUNTRY!
WHY WERE YOU WATCHING THE PROPHECY? DID YOU KNOW ABOUT OMEGA RED? ARE YOU ON AN OFFICIAL MISSION OR ARE YOU A LOOSE CANNON? WHERE DOES--
LOOK DO YOU WANT ANSWERS, OR DO YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE?
INTERMITTENT VISUAL ON GROUND TARGET DO WE HAVE AN INFRARED CONFIRMATION GUNNER?
THERE'RE THREE BODY HEAT SIGNATURES DOWN THERE SIR-- THAT'S DEFINITE' IT'S ONE OF OUR TEAMS
THE HELICOPTERS WENT RIGHT PAST US' THEY MUST HAVE SEEN US' WHY--?
GOOD KARMA? LUCK OF THE IRISH? I PREFER TO MAKE MY OWN LUCK--
-AND THAT ALWAYS MEANS STASHING A GETAWAY CAR'

EEEEEYAAAAA!
HOW PITIFULLY THEY CLING TO THEIR PATHETIC MORSELS OF LIFE FORCE--
--HOW FUTILE THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST THE INEXORABLE LETHALITY OF MY DEATH PHEROMONES!
THEIR VITAL ENERGIES ARE MEDIOCRE BUT THEY WILL SUSTAIN ME FOR THE TIME BEING--
BEEP!
INTEL DATA BASE SCAN COMPLETE!
HOW CONVENIENT
BLIP!
enter
JOHN WRAITH
OHO

COLONEL, WE HAVE A REPORT JUST IN THAT THE FUGITIVES USED A JEEP TO GET TO AN AIRFIELD WHERE THEY COMMANDEERED A SMALL PLANE...
...WHEN THEY MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED OFF RADAR, THEIR HEADING WAS 314--
314? HOW DO I CALL UP THE MAP ON THIS--?
--THERE IT IS! 314 DEGREES PLOTTED FROM THE AIRFIELD...
...INTERSECTS THE SECRET WEAPON X SITE!!
IT MAKES SENSE--WHAT BETTER PLACE FOR MAVERICK TO HIDE THE CARBONADIUM SYNTHESIZER! BUT HOW DO I--?
THAT'S ONE OF THE YAHOOS, RIGHT THERE!
UGLY SUCKER, AIN'T HE?
YOUR BUDDIES MAY HAVE GIVEN US THE SLIP, BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE--!
HIT THE DECK, FACE DOWN AND PUT YOUR HANDS BEHIND YOUR HEAD! DO IT NOW!
JUST WHEN I NEED AIR TRANSPORT, LOOK WHAT SHOWS UP!


AREN'T WE FLYING A BIT LOW, WRAITH-MAN?
BELOW FIVE HUNDRED FEET IS PRETTY SAFE FROM RADAR BUT BELOW ONE HUNDRED IS VERY SAFE..
...VERY IS A LOT BETTER THAN PRETTY IN MY BOOK PODNUH. JUST HOLD ON TIGHT AND CLENCH EVERYTHING THAT'S CLENCHABLE
I NEVER GOT A CHANCE TO FINISH INTRODUCING MY LADY FRIEND--
ELENA IVANOVNA DAUGHTER OF EPSILON RED, THE SOVIET SUPER ASTRONAUT SHE WAS KGB SPECIAL ACTION TEAM PSI-UNIT AND SHE'S BEEN A FREE-AGENT SINCE THE COMMIES GOT EIGHTY-SIXED FROM THE KREMLIN
THE DOPE IN NTEL CIRCLES IS THAT SHE'S BEEN TRACKING DOWN OUR OLD PAL CREED, AKA SABRETOOTH TO DEAL HIM SOME PAYBACK FOR WHAT HE DID TO HER MOTHER.
HANG TIGHT KIDDIES--
--WE'RE GOING INTO A RAVINE.
YOU KNOW AN AWFUL LOT ABOUT ME--
--TOO BAD YOU DON'T KNOW MORE ABOUT OUR ADVERSARY, OMEGA RED!
LITTLE LADY THE WRAITH-MAN KNOWS MORE ABOUT OMEGA RED THAN ANY TWO INTEL AGENCIES COMBINED!
READ THE DOSSIER AND CATCH UP WHY DON'T YOU?

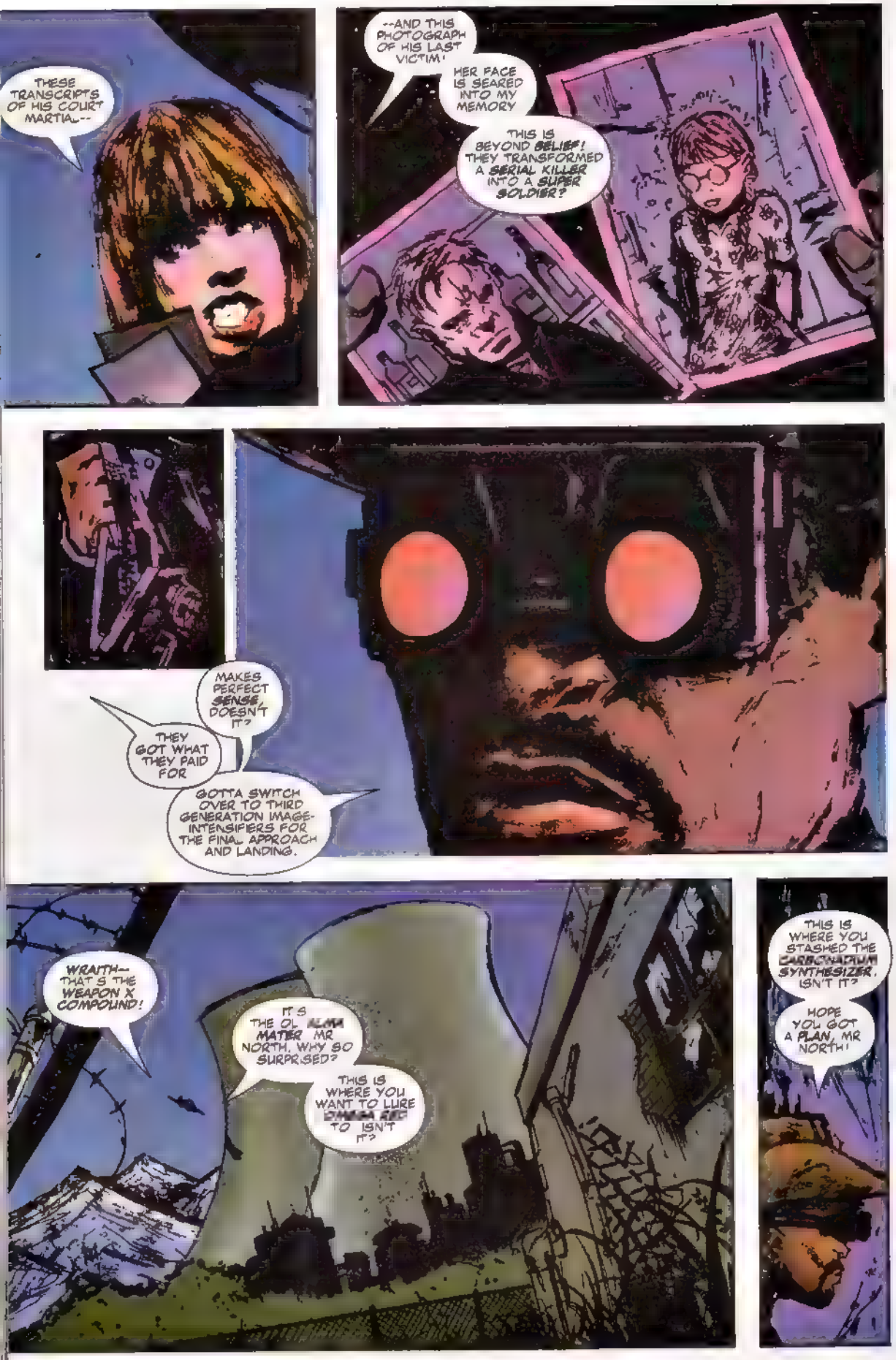

A PRINTOUT OF HIS ARMY PERSONNEL RECORDS!
PHOTOSTATS OF HIS PARTY MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE--
--IDENTIFICATION CARDS FOR ALL HIS ALIASES!
AND THIS PHOTO? PRE-SUPER SOLDIER? THAT UNIFORM—

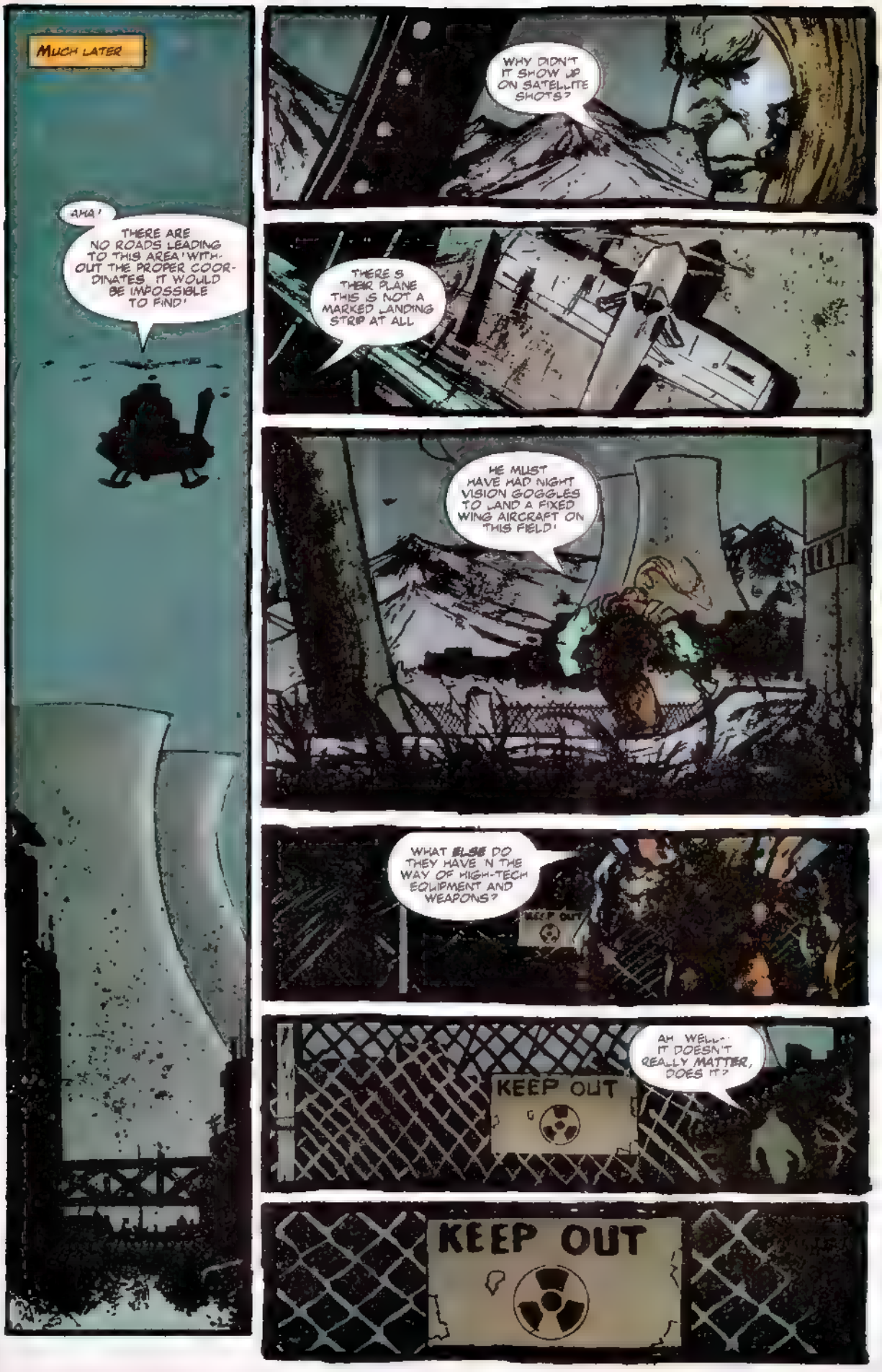

SPETSNAZ BORDER GUARD COMMANDO UNIT WE CALLED 'EM THE SPETZ-NASTIES.
NOBODY VOLUNTEERS FOR ANYTHING IN THE RUSSIAN ARMY NOT TODAY, NOT YESTERDAY, NOT EVEN UNDER PAPA JOE STALIN.
THE PHYSICAL SPECIMENS THAT WERE AVAILABLE FOR THE SUPER SOLDIER PROGRAM WERE MEDIOCRE TO SAY THE LEAST.

OUR BOY ARKADY GREGORIVICH WAS A PRIMO WACKO WHOSE HANDIWORK WENT PRETTY UNNOTICED...

" UNTIL HE GOT TRANSFERRED TO SOME TWO-RUBLE OUTPOST NEAR THE ARCTIC CIRCLE WHERE THE PRETTY YOUNG GIRLS WERE FEW ENOUGH TO BE MISSED "
"MILITARY JUSTICE IN THE RED ARMY WAS BEYOND BEING SUMMARY. THEY TOOK HIM INTO A WINDOWLESS CELL AND SHOT HIM IN THE BACK OF THE HEAD. "

THE FACT THAT HE SURVIVED HIS OWN EXECUTION ALERTED THE SOVIET SAVANTS TO THE FACT THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE A HARDY ENOUGH CANDIDATE TO BRAVE THE RIGORS OF THEIR SUPER SOLDIER PROCESS
"THEY WERE INTERESTED IN RESULTS, YOU SEE AND THEY CONSIDERED SOME OF HIS MORE EGREGIOUS ANTI-SOCIAL TRAITS TO BE ADVANTAGES.
SO THEY PUT HIM THROUGH THE PROGRAM AND HE MADE IT ALL THE WAY THROUGH TO THE END ON SHEER MEAN.
"THEY HAD A NINETY-FIVE PERCENT WASHOUT RATE AND WASHING OUT OF THE SUPER SOLDIER PROGRAM IS WHAT YOU CALL PERMANENT.
"WHEN THEY HAD HIM AS TOUGH AND MEAN AS THEY COULD MAKE HIM THEY LET THE BIO-ENGINEERS LOOSE ON HIM AND THEY DID THE FULL-TILT BOOGIES ON HIS FLAKEY BUTT.
"TIGHTENED HIM UP, YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?"


THESE TRANSCRIPTS OF HIS COURT MARTIAL--
--AND THIS PHOTOGRAPH OF HIS LAST VICTIM!
HER FACE IS SEARED INTO MY MEMORY
THIS IS BEYOND BELIEF! THEY TRANSFORMED A SERIAL KILLER INTO A SUPER SOLDIER?
MAKES PERFECT SENSE, DOESN'T IT?
THEY GOT WHAT THEY PAID FOR
GOTTA SWITCH OVER TO THIRD GENERATION IMAGE-INTENSIFIERS FOR THE FINAL APPROACH AND LANDING.
WRAITH-- THAT'S THE WEAPON X COMPOUND!
IT'S THE OL' ALMA MATER MR NORTH. WHY SO SURPRISED?
THIS IS WHERE YOU WANT TO LURE OMEGA RED TO, ISN'T IT?
THIS IS WHERE YOU STASHED THE CARBONADIUM SYNTHESIZER, ISN'T IT?
HOPE YOU GOT A PLAN, MR NORTH!


MUCH LATER
AHA!
THERE ARE NO ROADS LEADING TO THIS AREA! WITHOUT THE PROPER COORDINATES IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND!
WHY DIDN'T IT SHOW UP ON SATELLITE SHOTS?
THERE'S THEIR PLANE. THIS IS NOT A MARKED LANDING STRIP AT ALL
HE MUST HAVE HAD NIGHT VISION GOGGLES TO LAND A FIXED WING AIRCRAFT ON THIS FIELD!
WHAT ELSE DO THEY HAVE IN THE WAY OF HIGH-TECH EQUIPMENT AND WEAPONS?
KEEP OUT
AH WELL... IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER, DOES IT?
KEEP OUT
KEEP OUT

THIS IS HIGH EAGLE TWO--

--WE HAVE A HIGH-RES SATELLITE LOCK ON THE TARGET AND AN ONBOARD SENSOR SCAN RUNNING

WE ARE RUNNING IMAGERY THROUGH THE COMPUTERS FOR ENHANCEMENT AND ANALYSIS--

--AND WE HAVE TWO HOT SPOTS ON THE GROUND FROM TWO COOLING AIRCRAFT ENGINES. WE HAVE FOUR INFRARED SOURCES FROM HUMAN-SIZED TARGETS WITHIN THE MAIN BUILDING.

WE JUST GO FOR A PAVEWAY STRIKE.

TORNADO ONE AND TORNADO TWO ARE OFF THE DECK AND RUNNING. WE COPY GO FOR THE PAVEWAY STRIKE

THAT IS A RODGE, TORNADO ONE. PAVEWAY IS GO

IN ORDER FOR THIS TO WORK EVERYBODY HAS TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THEY ARE GOING TO DO AND THE TIMING HAS TO BE PRECISE

IS EVERYBODY READY?

READY!

YO!

AFTER WE DEAL WITH OMEGA RED I'LL TELL YOU WHERE YOU CAN FIND **SABRETOOTH**--

I'LL **NEVER** GIVE UP MY VENDETTA!

--IF YOU STILL WANT TO KNOW

YOU MIGHT THINK **TWICE** ABOUT GOING UP AGAINST **CREED**...

IF YOU KNEW ABOUT THE **LAST** TIME SOMEBODY SENT AN ALPHA-CLASS **PSI-TALENT** TO TURN OUT HIS LIGHTS

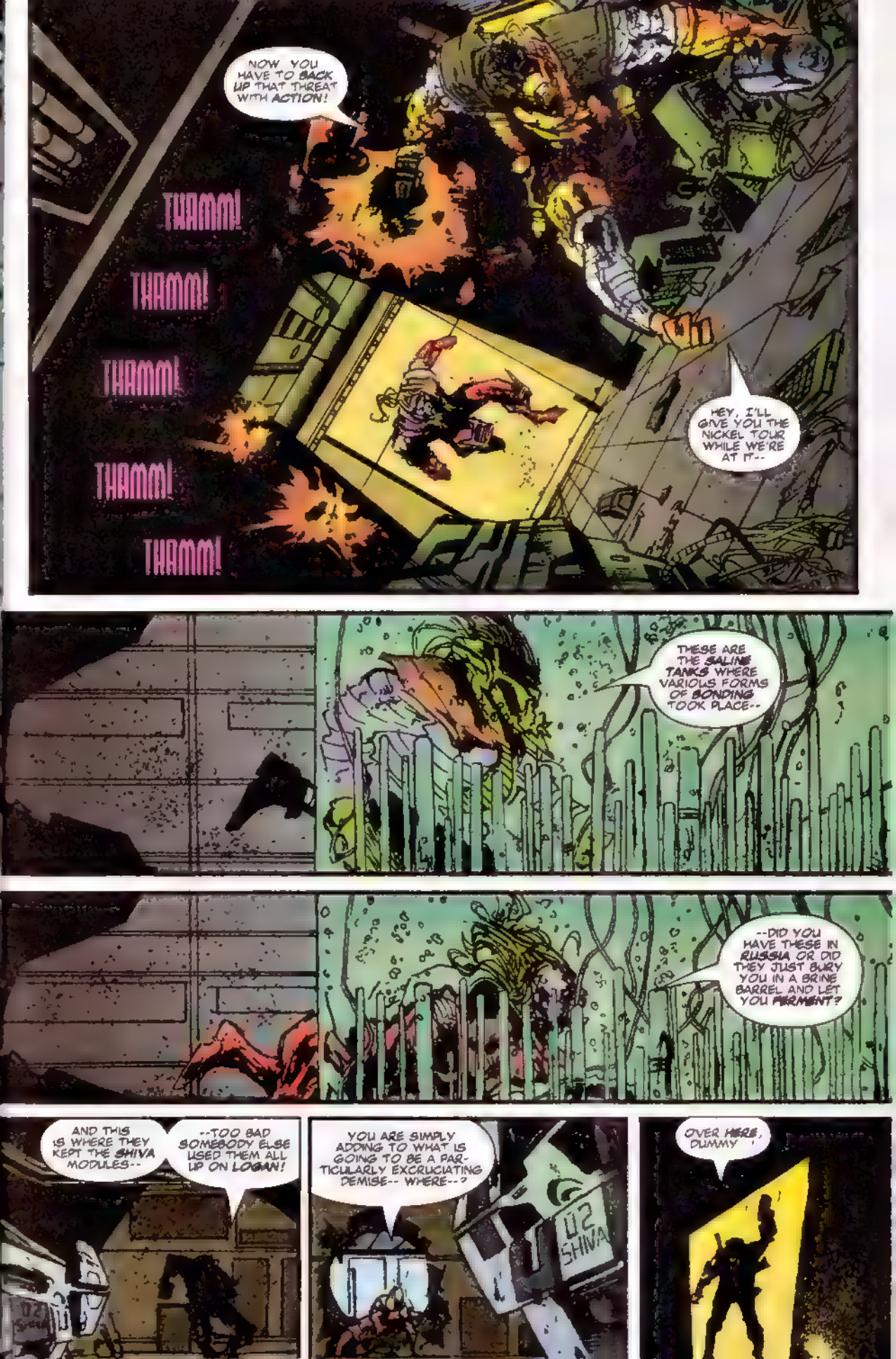
IT WAS IN **HONG KONG**.

THEY KNEW **CREED** WAS ON A HIT THERE. TAKING OUT A TRIAD BOSS IN HIS OWN DEN

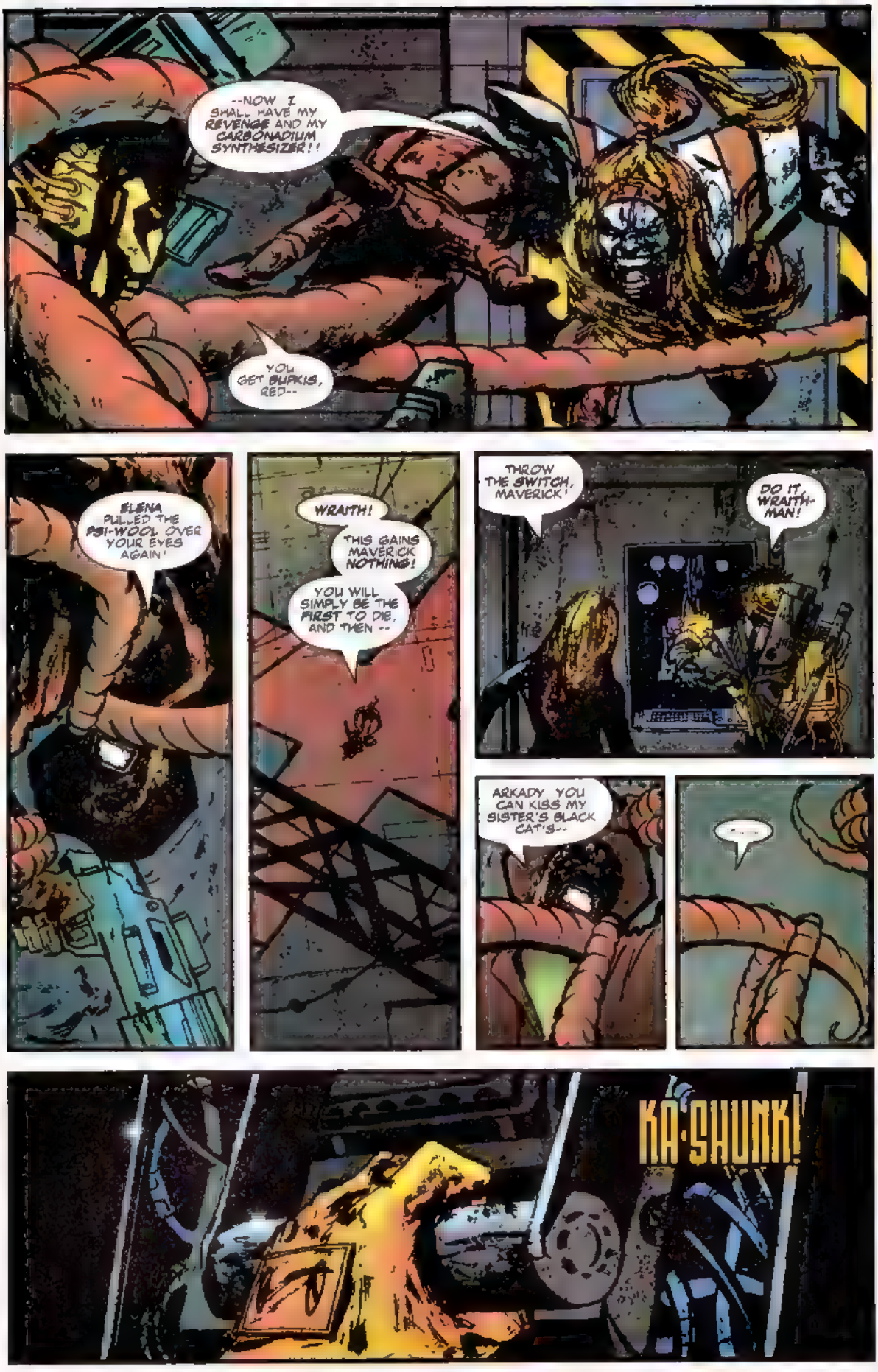
HER NAME WAS BIRDIE AND SHE DIDN'T WASTE ANY TIME
KHOOOOOOOM!
SHE WALKED IN WHILE THE BULLETS WERE STILL FLYING AND PASTED THAT BAD DUDE WITH HER BEST SHOT
NOT THAT IT DID ANY GOOD
NICE TRY LITTLE GIRL--
--NOW IT'S MY TURN!
AIEEEEEEEEEEEE!
NO ONE KNOWS WHAT HE DID TO HER THAT NIGHT, BUT FROM THEN ON SHE WAS HIS.
KEPT HER ON A TIGHT LEASH AND USED HER PSI-POWERS TO HELP KEEP HIS PERSONAL DEMONS UNDER CONTROL
SHE WENT TO KILL HIM AND ENDED UP HIS SLAVE.
THIS BIRDIE...
...WHAT HAPPENED TO HER?
CREED'S OWN SON KILLED HER JUST TO SPITE HIS DAD
NICE FAMILY, HUH?

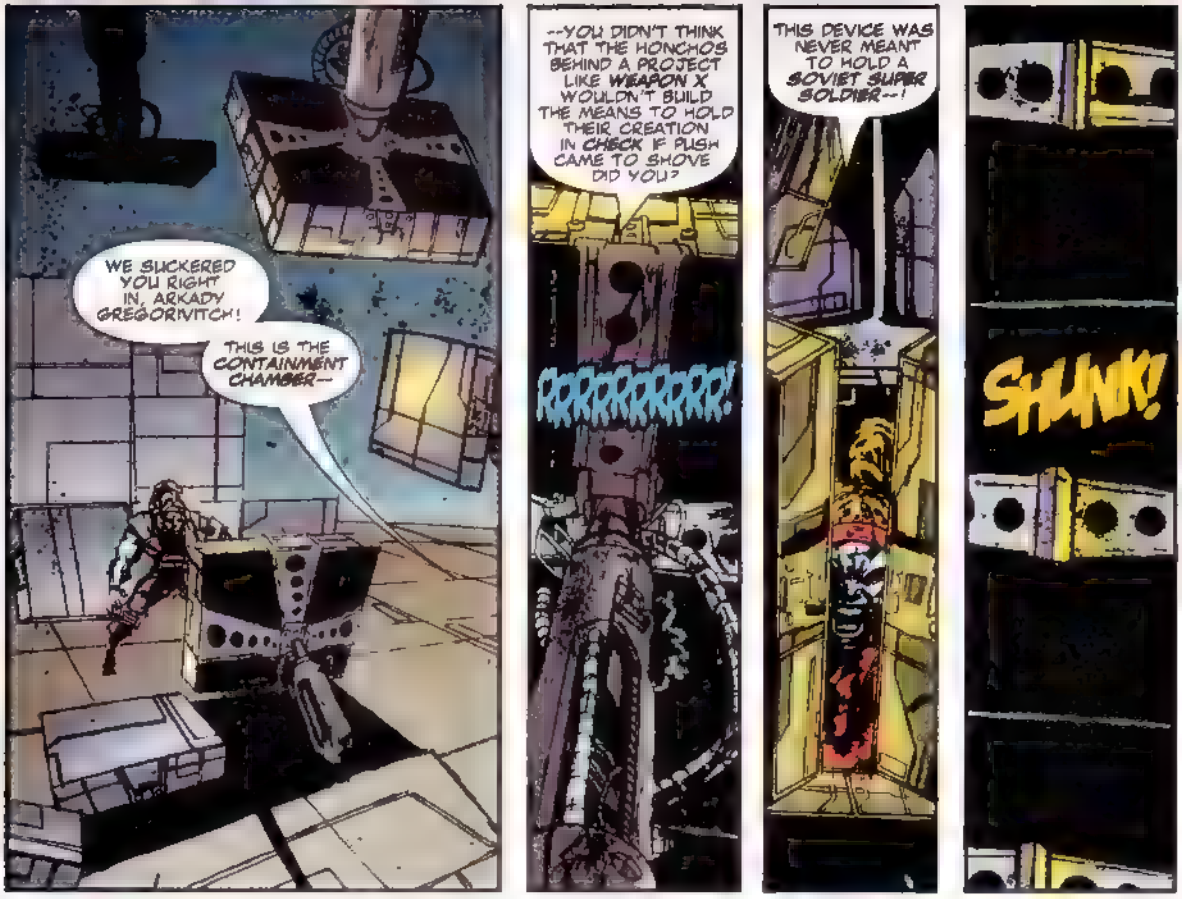
SCHRRRAMMM!
HAR! I HAVEN'T STRANGLED A NICE LITTLE GIRL IN A LONG TIME!!
(HELLO! REMEMBER ME?)
WHA--??
--NOOOOO! YOU'RE DEAD!!
THAT DISTRACTED HIM LONG ENOUGH--
--FOR ME TO GET MY LICKS IN!
THOOM! THOOM! THOOM!
PWAMM!
WHAMM!
THWAMM!
YOU ARE DELAYING THE INEVITABLE, YOU KNOW.

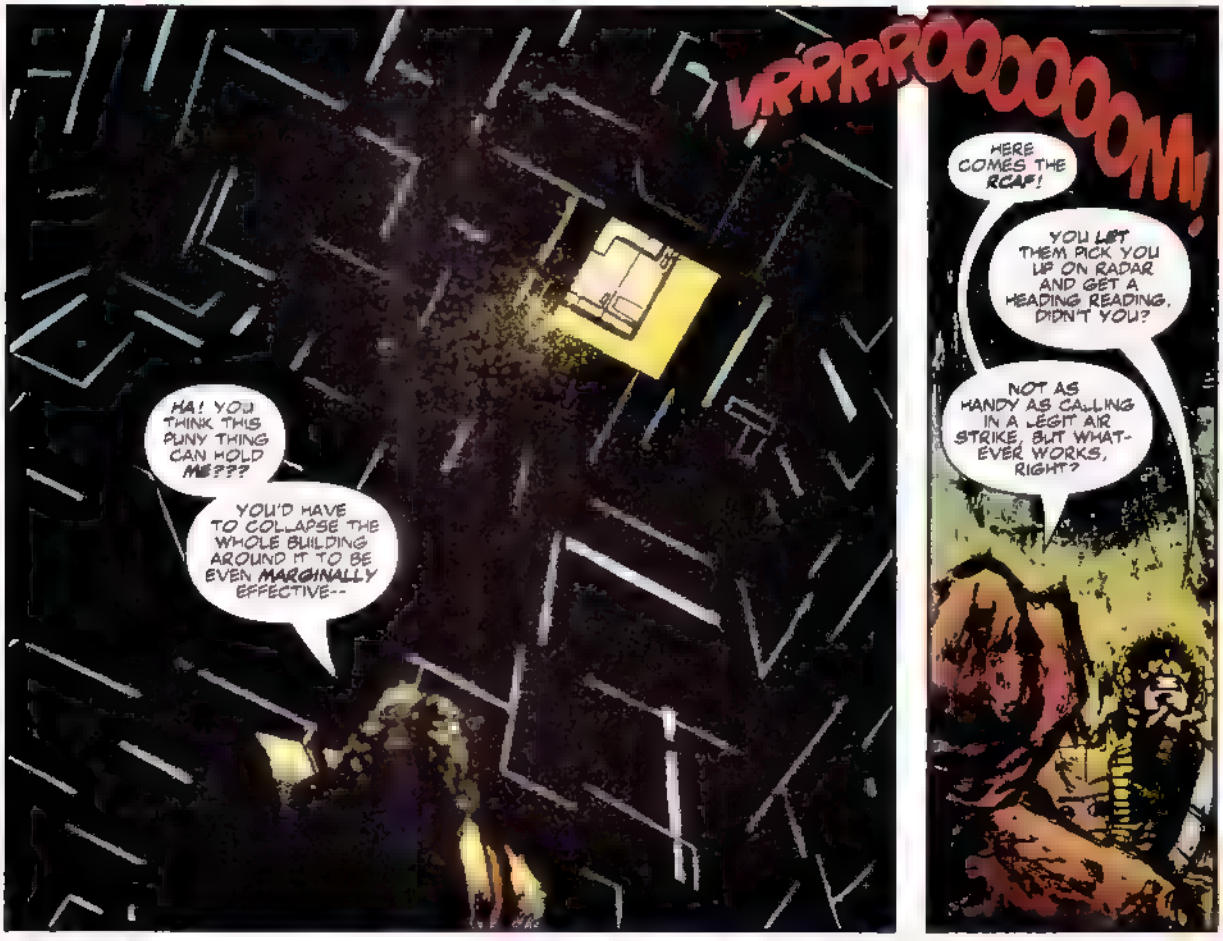
I WILL FIND EACH OF YOU AND I WILL MAKE YOU BEG FOR A SWIFT END TO YOUR SUFFERING A MERCY THAT SHALL NOT BE GRANTED!
NOW IT IS SIMPLY A MATTER OF DECIDING WHO TO TRACK DOWN FIRST--
AW THAT SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD...
...CONSIDERING THAT I'M THE ONE WHO HAS YOUR CARBONADIUM SYNTHESIZER!
GIVE IT BACK, THIEF-- OR--
OR WHAT?
YOU ALREADY SHOT YOUR THREAT WAD, BIG GUY


NOW YOU HAVE TO BACK UP THAT THREAT WITH ACTION!
THAMM!
THAMM!
THAMM!
THAMM!
THAMM!
HEY, I'LL GIVE YOU THE NICKEL TOUR WHILE WE'RE AT IT--
THESE ARE THE SALINE TANKS WHERE VARIOUS FORMS OF BONDING TOOK PLACE--
--DID YOU HAVE THESE IN RUSSIA OR DID THEY JUST BURY YOU IN A BRINE BARREL AND LET YOU FERMENT?
AND THIS IS WHERE THEY KEPT THE SHIVA MODULES--
--TOO BAD SOMEBODY ELSE USED THEM ALL UP ON LOGAN!
YOU ARE SIMPLY ADDING TO WHAT IS GOING TO BE A PARTICULARLY EXCRUCIATING DEMISE-- WHERE--?
U2 SHIVA
OVER HERE, DUMMY!

YOU STILL WANT THIS PIECE OF EVIL EMPIRE TECHNOLOGY?
WELL THEN, YOU HAVE TO COME RIGHT IN HERE.
...AND TAKE IT AWAY FROM ME!
I'LL TAKE AWAY YOUR LIFE!
THE LEGACY VIRUS ALREADY BEAT YOU TO IT--
--JUST AS SURE AS I'M GOING TO STOP YOUR CLOCK!
WE'LL SEE WHOSE CLOCK CEASES TO RUN MAVERICK--


--NOW I SHALL HAVE MY REVENGE AND MY CARBONADIUM SYNTHESIZER!!
YOU GET BUPKIS, RED--
ELENA PULLED THE PSI-WOOL OVER YOUR EYES AGAIN!
WRAITH!
THIS GAINS MAVERICK NOTHING!
YOU WILL SIMPLY BE THE FIRST TO DIE, AND THEN --
THROW THE SWITCH, MAVERICK!
DO IT, WRAITH-MAN!
ARKADY YOU CAN KISS MY SISTER'S BLACK CAT'S--
KA-SHUNK!

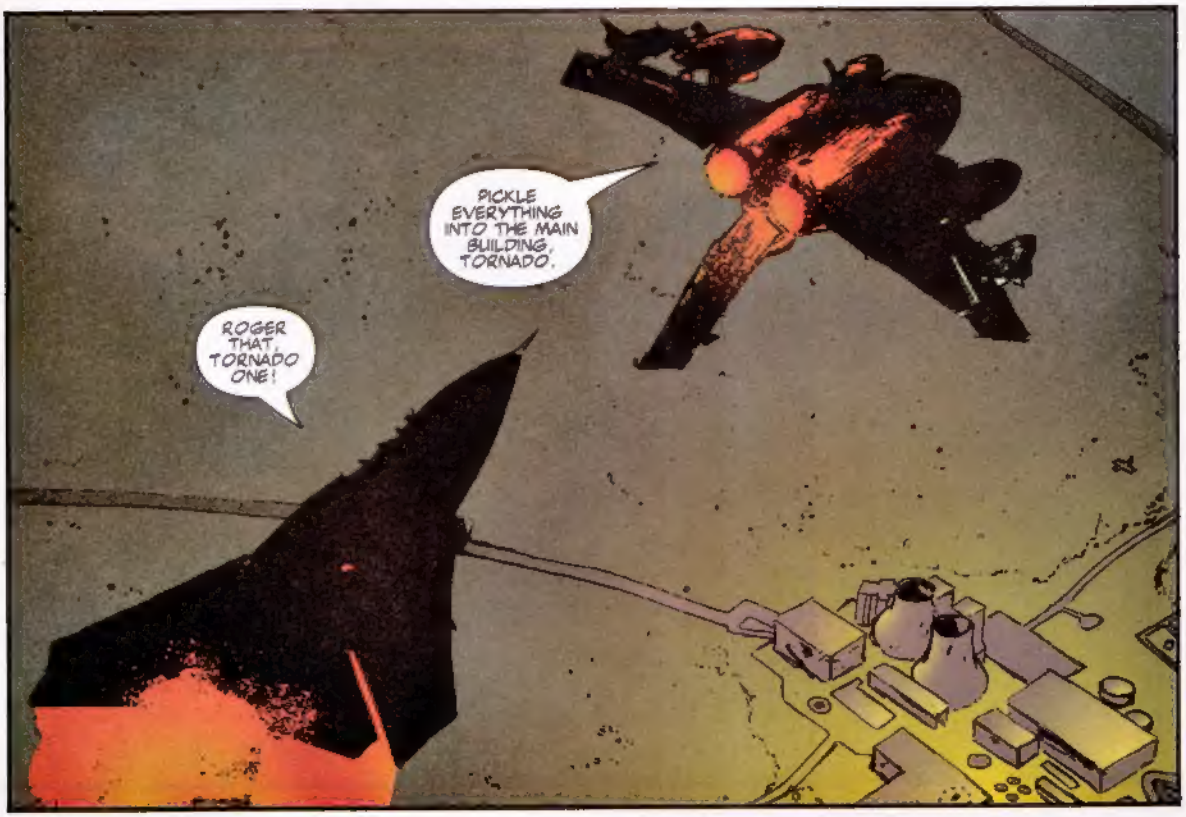

WE SUCKERED YOU RIGHT IN, ARKADY GREGORIVITCH!
THIS IS THE CONTAINMENT CHAMBER--
--YOU DIDN'T THINK THAT THE HONCHOS BEHIND A PROJECT LIKE WEAPON X WOULDN'T BUILD THE MEANS TO HOLD THEIR CREATION IN CHECK IF PUSH CAME TO SHOVE DID YOU?
RRRRRRRRR!
THIS DEVICE WAS NEVER MEANT TO HOLD A SOVIET SUPER SOLDIER--!
SHUNK!

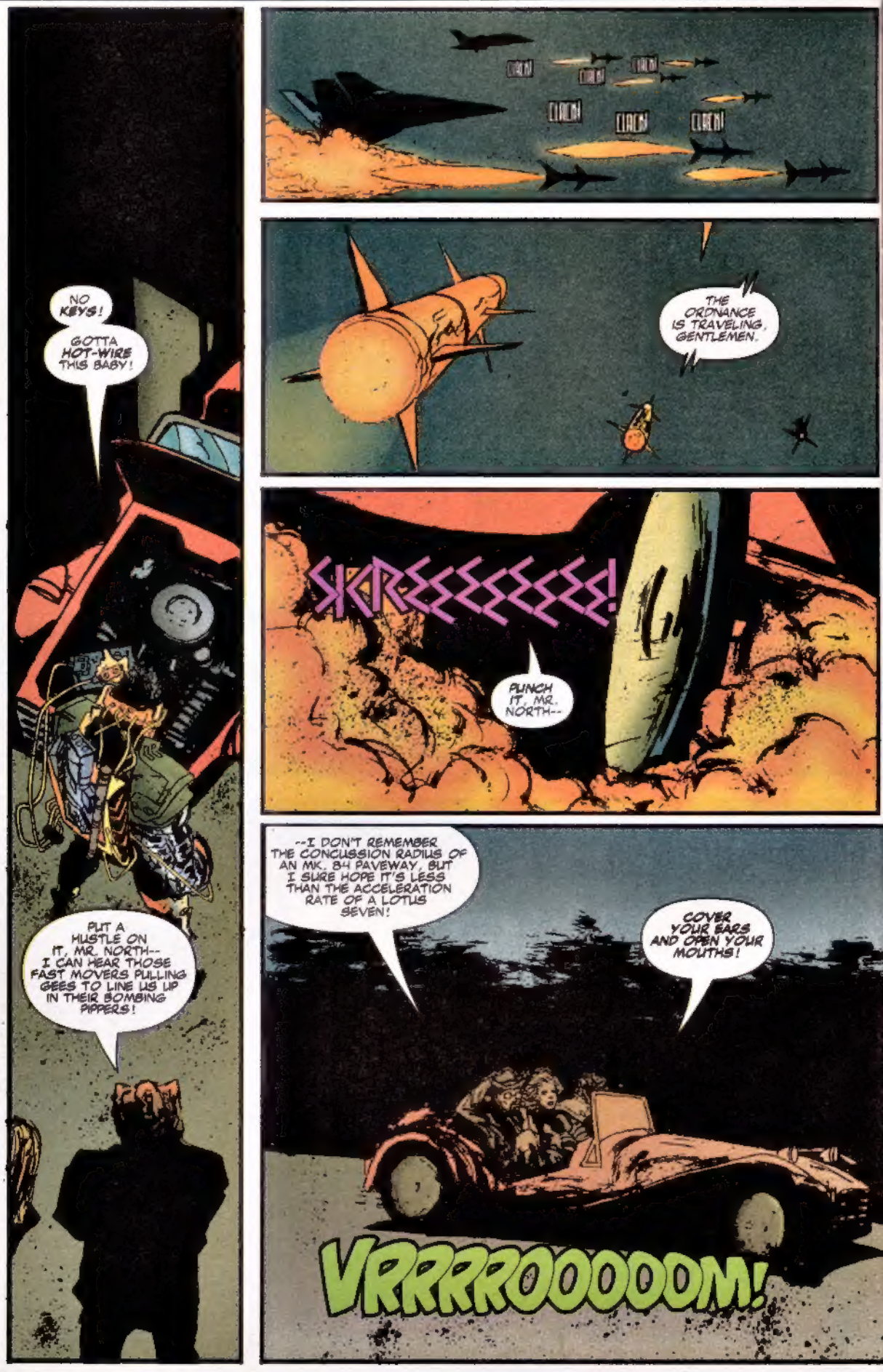

VRRRROOOOOOM!
HA! YOU THINK THIS PUNY THING CAN HOLD ME???
YOU'D HAVE TO COLLAPSE THE WHOLE BUILDING AROUND IT TO BE EVEN MARGINALLY EFFECTIVE--
HERE COMES THE RCAF!
YOU LET THEM PICK YOU UP ON RADAR AND GET A HEADING READING, DIDN'T YOU?
NOT AS HANDY AS CALLING IN A LEGIT AIR STRIKE, BUT WHATEVER WORKS, RIGHT?

THIS IS TORNADO ONE. WE HAVE A POSITIVE VISUAL ON THE TARGET. REQUEST FIRING ORDER CONFIRMATION.
ROGER THAT, TORNADO ONE. FIRING ORDER ON TARGET DESIGNATED WHISKEY X-RAY IS AFFIRMATIVE.
THIS IS TORNADO ONE. CONFIRMATION RECEIVED. ARMING PAVEWAYS.

THIS WAY!!

THAT'S LOGAN'S LOTUS SEVEN!
LET'S HOPE SHE STILL CRANKS!


PICKLE EVERYTHING INTO THE MAIN BUILDING, TORNADO.
ROGER THAT, TORNADO ONE!


NO KEYS!
GOTTA HOT-WIRE THIS BABY!
PUT A HUSTLE ON IT, MR. NORTH-- I CAN HEAR THOSE FAST MOVERS PULLING GEES TO LINE US UP IN THEIR BOMBING PIPPERS!
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
THE ORDNANCE IS TRAVELING, GENTLEMEN.
SKRRRRRRRRR!
PUNCH IT, MR. NORTH--
--I DON'T REMEMBER THE CONCUSSION RADIUS OF AN MK. 84 PAVEWAY, BUT I SURE HOPE IT'S LESS THAN THE ACCELERATION RATE OF A LOTUS SEVEN!
COVER YOUR EARS AND OPEN YOUR MOUTHS!
VRRRROOOOOM!

BA-DA-DA-DOOOM!
RRRRRRUMBLE!
NOOOOOOOO!

YOU HELD UP YOUR SIDE OF THE BARGAIN, ELENA-- SO I'M GOING TO HOLD UP MINE.
YOU CAN FIND SABRETOOTH IN FALLS EDGE, VIRGINIA, BUT I DON'T THINK YOU'RE GOING TO DO IT NOW.
AS MUCH AS YOU WANT REVENGE, YOU'RE NOT ABOUT TO COMPROMISE YOUR HONOR...
...OR ELSE YOU WOULD HAVE JUST MIND-PROBED ME BACK AT THE PROPHECY AND SAVED YOURSELF ALL THIS TROUBLE.
I HAVE GOT TO THINK ABOUT THIS-- I NEED TO--
BONK!
IS HE--?
NO, HE'S STILL TICKING, BUT YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO GIVE ME A HAND HERE.
HE WAS A GOOD AGENT, OLD MR. NORTH WAS.
IT'S A SHAME HE'S GOTTA GO BACK TO THAT FETID LITTLE ROOM AT THE PROPHECY AND DIE ALL BY HIMSELF.
HE WON'T BE ALONE.
CREED CAN WAIT.
The sword sung on the barren heath,
The sickle in the fruitful field:
The sword he sung a song of death,
But could not make the sickle yield.
-William Blake